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Imran, Ghani call for new chapter in ties

PM says Pakistan supports intra-Afghan dialogue
Wants stronger political, trade relations with Afghanistan



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan leads delegation-level talks with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa is also seen.—INP (Another picture on Page 03)

Some elements are not happy over the growing ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan. We should remain alert," warns Qureshi

SHAFQAT ALI
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Afghanistan on Thursday agreed to forget the past and open a new chapter of friendship and partnership based on mutual trust.

Pakistan told the visiting Afghan President Dr Ashraf Ghani that Islamabad supported the reconciliation process in Afghanistan and warned Kabul to stay away from trouble-makers.

The two countries agreed to cooperate based on mutual trust and harmony for the benefit of the two peoples and countries and for advancing the cause of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

During a one-on-one meeting between Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Dr Ashraf Ghani here, it was decided to remain in contact and work jointly for peace. Ghani also met President Arif Ali and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

The Afghan president is accompanied by a high-level delegation including ministers, advisers, senior officials and businessmen. The main one-on-one meeting with PM Khan was followed by delegation-level talks.

The two leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Over the weekend, Prime Minister Khan said that Pakistan had "no favourite" in the upcoming presidential elections. The PM, who met a delegation of senior Afghan leaders leading different groups here, said Pakistan respected the Afghan people's right to elect their leadership.

The Afghan leaders had earlier participated in the Lahore Peace Process organised by the Lahore Centre for Peace and Research in Bhurban. Fifty-seven Afghan politicians, including Hizb-e-Islami leader Gultadin Helmatyar, former Balkh governor Atta Mohammad Noor, Second Deputy Chief Executive Mohammad Mojaqqa, and presidential candidate Ab-

dul Latif Pedram, attended the peace conference in Pakistan.

The presidential election scheduled for 28 September will be a key moment to reaffirm the legitimacy of Afghanistan's democratic political structure. There are significant operational and technical challenges to be overcome.

President Ghani had undertaken a bilateral visit to Pakistan in November 2014 and later came to attend the Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process Ministerial Conference in Islamabad in December 2015.

Prime Minister Khan affirmed that Pakistan remained committed to bring about a qualitative transformation in Pak-Afghan relations as part of his vision of a 'peaceful neighbourhood'. The two leaders agreed on the importance of crafting a forward-looking vision of Pak-Afghan relations.

The premier reiterated Pakistan's commitment to support the Afghan peace process as a shared responsibility. He underlined that an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process was the only viable option to end decades-long conflict in Afghanistan. In this regard, Pakistan supports a result-oriented intra-Afghan dialogue.

Prime Minister Khan underscored Pakistan's respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and its commitment to stand by the Afghan people at this crucial juncture.

He added that Pakistan remains committed to a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan and wishes to have stronger political, trade, economic, and people-to-people relations with Afghanistan.

The two leaders agreed that enduring peace in Afghanistan would bring rich economic dividends to both the countries. They reaffirmed their commitment to work together to broaden and deepen bilateral trade, streamline transit trade, and strengthen efforts

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Opp again faces defeat on cut-motions

Treasury members show greater numerical strength in NA
House sees rumpus when Shehbaz uses banned word against PM

Govt has borrowed Rs2,400b contrary to Opp claims. In first 10 months of its tenure," says minister

JAVAJD-UR-RAHMAN
ISLAMABAD

The opposition in the Thursday's National Assembly budget proceedings again failed to defeat the treasury in voting on the cut-motions as the government continues to maintain its numerical strength.

The joint opposition twice challenged the government on two cut-motions of different ministries claiming that they were in majority and hence capable of approving their budgetary proposals.

The cut motions are considered a test to gauge the strength of the government in the house. If such a

motion is adopted, it amounts to a no-confidence vote and the government falls.

The government, in the first attempt of opposition, defeated them with 26 votes. The opposition with 143 MNAs challenged the government whose 169 members were found to be present in the house.

In the second attempt, the opposition with her 136 members challenged the government but were beat by 36 votes as the treasury had 172 MNAs in the house at the time.

Interestingly, the bigwigs from both sides of aisle Prime Minister Imran Khan, Opposition Leader Shehbaz Sharif and PPP Co-chairman

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari were present in the house when the opposition apparently attempted to show its strength.

RUMPLUS OVER USE OF EXPUNGED WORD

The house saw a rumpus when the Leader of Opposition in NA Shehbaz Sharif twice uttered a word about Prime Minister Imran Khan which has already been banned by the chair.

Sharif used the banned word for the prime minister in his presence, provoking a strong reaction from

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It's 'hit men' versus 'helpless puppets'



Throughout the Thursday sitting, the number strong opposition indeed kept the government on its toes to ensure full presence of its members in the house.

Pressing cut motions on energy-related issues, however, it could neither spin headline-grabbing stories nor create any significant embarrassment for treasury benches. Even a forced head count at one point, clearly showed

that the government and its allies had 26 more members present in house than 143 of the combined opposition.

Sustaining such edge, the Imran government will smoothly leap through the procedural ropes and rites to get its first budget passed by the scheduled date, i.e. June 29.

Close to this head count, Prime Minister entered the house. The treasury benches welcomed him with full-throated slogans and fierce desk thumping.

Taking advantage of a point of order, Mian Shehbaz Sharif, the Opposition Leader, was waiting over the free fall of Pak rupee against the US dollar, when the Prime Minister entered the house.

In sycophantic binge, a huge group of the PTI

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INSIDE

- JJI-sponsored APC: A balance sheet
- Five more police cases detected in KP
- Trump hits out at 'unacceptable' India tariffs

BACK PAGE

PM hints at extending amnesty scheme deadline

Says taxpayers to be made VIPs; money launderers to face jail

OUR STAFF REPORTER/APP
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday hinted at extending the deadline of the Asset Declaration Scheme. "I am considering it (extension) because there's a lot of pressure, and lots of people are saying that there is too little time left to register," he said.

Prime Minister Khan said that within next 48 hours, the government would come up with a pro-

gramme to accommodate the procrastinators who had emerged in a huge number at the last moment to avail tax amnesty scheme expiring on June 30, 2019.

Talking to PTV's special transmission "Aap Ka Paisa - Aap Kay Kaam", the prime minister said he had discussed with his Finance Adviser Abdul Hafeez Shaikh and FBR Chairman Shabbir Zaidi as how the government could facilitate such a people.

He said it was being discussed whether the government should al-

low the people, complaining the paucity of time, to register within the deadline and get benefit from the scheme after June 30.

Reiterating his call to the nation to avail the tax amnesty scheme, the prime minister said being a non-filer was an illegal act. Besides, the country could not be steered out of the debt trap unless the people paid taxes.

He said inherited from the British colonialism the culture of tax evasion continued in Pakistan because the people found that their tax money was not be-

Provincial and federal authorities must launch a special campaign to control prices," directs Imran

ing used for their welfare rather to support the luxuries of the ruling class.

To a question, he assured the people that he would safeguard them from any harassment by any public institutions after they came under the tax net. He said along with the efforts to enhance the tax net, the government was also striving to reform the FBR to end the mistrust as well as get rid of the corrupt elements.

The prime minister also assured the nation that their tax money would be spent on them. He said for

the first time the government had reduced its expenditures with the salaries of the cabinet ministers reduced by 10 percent, PM House expenses by Rs300 million and freezing of the defence expenditures in this budget.

Recounting the philanthropic character of Pakistani nation, he said they could even collect Rs8,000 billion if they made a resolve.

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BUSINESS | PAGE 08

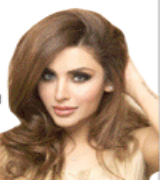
Unbridled dollar hits
Rs164
in interbank market

Rupee further lost its value by Rs1.84 against dollar and reached Rs164 in the interbank market. In the open market, the greenback is being traded at Rs164.25.

SHOWBIZ | PAGE 20

Up, close & personal
with Sara Bhatti

Sara Bhatti made a phenomenal comeback with her power-packed performance in Dowar Mehmood and Anwar Maqsood's theatre play Naachna Jaane - a prequel to Aangan Terha (the hit TV series from the 1980s).



SPORTS | PAGE 11

Babar terms his knock
'best' against Kiwis

Pakistan cricket teams most reliable batsman century maker against New Zealand, Babar Azam, has termed his knock 'best', which doubled his joy with his team's success in the crucial match of the World Cup at Edgbaston ground.



WORLD | PAGE 17

Trump-XI showdown to
dominate G20 summit

Leaders from Group of 20 nations will meet in Osaka in its most important summit since the global financial crisis. When the G20 met in Washington in 2008, they were focused on a mammoth task: how to piece the world economy back.



NATIONAL

Quick Read

NAB files reference against Mehtab Abbasi, others

ISLAMABAD (NOKHAIZ SAHI): The National Accountability Bureau Rawalpindi has filed corruption reference several people, including against senior leader of PML-N and former advisor Civil Aviation Mehtab Ahmed Khan Abbasi, Muhammad Irfan Elahi, ex-Secretary Civil Aviation, M. Raheel Ahmed, Chief HR Officer, Muhsarrar Rasool Cyan, former CEO PIA, Tariq Mehmood Pasha in illegal appointment of Muhsarrar Rasool Cyan as CEO PIA.

As per details, Supreme Court of Pakistan vide order dated 22.07.2018 passed in Case No. 42697-S/2018, referred NAB to ascertain the validity of appointment of CEO, PIA. During investigation it was established that the accused Muhammad Irfan Elahi, former Secretary Civil Aviation, M. Raheel Ahmed, Chief HR Officer, Mehtab Ahmed Khan, Tariq Mehmood Pasha of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited here in after referred as PIA, knowingly with mollified intentions through misuse of authority appointed accused Muhsarrar Rasool Cyan as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) by violating relevant rules and laws.

The last PML-N government of province that appointed the former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governor Mehtab Abbasi as aviation advisor to then prime minister Nawaz Sharif in 2017 and after a few months of Abbasi's appointment, Dr Muhsarrar Rasool Cyan was also appointed CEO of PIA. After a year, the Supreme Court declared Dr Cyan's appointment illegal after hearing a case filed by the PIA officers' association challenging his appointment. Justice Ijazul Ahsan, who headed the three-member bench of the Supreme Court that gave the verdict, said: "Mehtab Abbasi was a party to the appointment."

The NAB's Executive Board Meeting (EBM) was chaired by chairman NAB Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal had given the approval to file corruption references against accused persons in this case on the basis of misused authority and gave approval of the appointment of Dr Cyan as CEO of PIA. They caused a loss of millions of rupees to national exchequer through their wrong decision.

PTI govt has to go: Zardari

ISLAMABAD (SHAFQAT ALI): Former President Asif Ali Zardari yesterday said the opposition was unanimous to remove the PTI government, which, he claimed, has failed to deliver.

Speaking to journalists here, Zardari said: "This government has to go. We are not against democracy but the incompetent government." He said the opposition parties will finalise the name of new Chairman Senate soon.

"We have the numbers to replace the senate chairman. We will decide about it soon. All the opposition parties will decide the name of new chairman," he added. He said that Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani had not taken any meaningful initiative. The PPP co-Chairman said the All Parties Conference this week was successful.

He said that all political parties will together finalise a future strategy which will be good news for the people.



GILGIT: Gilgit Baltistan Chief Minister Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman rides a cycle during the opening ceremony of 'Tour de Khunjerab 2019' cycle rally.--APP

BNP-M to stay in PTI-led govt

IMRAN MUKHTAR ISLAMABAD

Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M) leader Sardar Akhtar Mengal Thursday said that his party would continue to remain part of the coalition government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) — a development that has eased the ruling party's concerns ahead of the crucial vote on the budget.

He also said the government had assured to implement their all six demands including recovery of the missing persons from the insurgency-hit Balochistan.

The BNP-M had agreed to become part of the coalition government of Imran Khan in August last year after the ruling PTI signed a six-point agreement with it that contained terms and conditions of the national party.

Later, Mengal had threatened to quit the coalition saying it was reluctant to implement his party's six points. In the last couple of weeks, BNP-M also threatened to abstain from voting on the budget warning that "it would side with whoever could address its grievances." The admonition upset the government ranks that had a thin



Minister of Defence Pervaiz Khattak and Sardar Akhtar Mengal address the media outside parliament house.--INFN

majority in the National Assembly to get the money bill passed. The PTI sources confirmed that party leader Jehangir Khan Tareen in a series of meetings played a crucial role to convince Mengal that the government would address to his concerns. Tareen persuaded him at a time when the opposition was trying to bring him on their side to block the passage of budget.

Defence Minister Pervaiz Khattak addressing a joint press conference along with Mengal at the Parliament House said that the government would take serious steps towards implementation of the six-point agreement. "The

two parties stick to the agreement, and there are no differences between us," he said and briefly talked on the six points. The six points include recovery of missing persons, giving six percent quota to Balochistan in federal government jobs, address water shortage issue of the province, and repatriation of the Afghan refugees.

Khattak said that a committee has already been formed to address issue of missing persons. He said the government would ensure that the local people do not turn into minority in the process of development of Gwadar Port. There is sense of

insecurity among the people of province that locals of Gwadar would turn into minority because a large number of outsiders are migrating to the port city as a result of its fast-track development, he said. "A bill will be introduced in the National Assembly to ensure that the rights of the people of Gwadar are protected," the minister said.

Regarding water issues of Balochistan, the defence minister said that it has been promised that several small dams would be constructed in the province. The feasibility for construction of two major dams there is also being prepared," Khattak said adding a gold refinery would also be set up in the province.

He said that six percent quota of the Balochistan youth in government departments will also be ensured. Both sides have agreed on the respectful repatriation of Afghan refugees, he concluded while talking about last point. Speaking on the occasion, Mengal said that Prime Minister Imran Khan in a meeting had assured members of his party that missing persons' issue would be resolved.

He said that the prime minister also assured them that neither Balochistan's share

in National Finance Commission Award would be cut nor the 18th amendment would be rolled back. Khattak interjected and said, "These were mere rumours because we need a two-thirds majority (in the parliament) to make these changes) and we do not have that. I would ask such people to stop lying."

The BNP chief said the government would soon form a parliamentary committee that will visit Balochistan to prepare a report on the problems being faced by the people of the province and present a report in the National Assembly.

Earlier, the concerns shown by Mengal had prompted the opposition to reach out to him and invited him to attend their multi-parties conference that met on June 26 to make a joint strategy to start an anti-government movement. However, Mengal stayed away from the moot and he along with his party members met with PM at the Parliament House the same day.

During the month of Ramadan, Mengal had attended an Iftar party hosted by PPP's Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Islamabad and attended by leadership of all opposition parties including PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz.

Govt has assured me of honouring all commitments, says Mengal

A strong opposition needs soft handling

MUBASHIR HASSAN LAHORE

Unlike its lackluster show on Wednesday last, the Opposition made its presence felt in the house on Thursday during general discussion on the supplementary budget.

Following passage of the annual budget the other day, the PTI government is now seeking assembly's approval for Rs90.6 billion spent in excess of the allocated budget under different heads of expenditure.

Armed with facts and figures, Mohammad Ahmad Khan of the PML-N made a very impressive speech questioning the extra amounts spent on the Chief Minister's House, Governor House and the Office of the Advocate General Punjab. The hollow claims of austerity of the present government stood exposed as he pointed out that Chief Minister's office spent Rs160 million in excess of the allocated amount. The additional amount in respect of Governor House was Rs80 million

while the office of advocate general spent Rs560 million more than its actual budget. Ahmad alleged that office of advocate general might have expended the excess amount on paying fees to the advocates for preparing fake cases against political opponents.

While the provincial ministers kept responding to other allegations by the opposition members, no one from the treasury side stood to defend extra expenditures incurred on the two highest offices in the province. There was also no official word for huge sum consumed by the advocate general Punjab.

Punjab Minister for Industries Mian Aslam Iqbal just contented to saying that previous government would spend the entire supplementary budget on by-elections. He also accused the government of promoting and protecting mafias in every sector.

Tahir Sindhua of the PML-N contended that government had spent Rs90 billion extra on the non-development side ignoring welfare of



If a govt presents supplementary budget for approval, it simply means it had little or no control over its expenditures in the preceding year. It also raises questions over the austerity measures every govt claims of taking to control its expenditures

the people. He also showed concern over meager allocations made for minorities in the new budget.

Strangely enough, majority of the legislators from both sides of the aisle spoke on the annual budget instead of the supplementary one. Both the speaker and the deputy speaker did not ask any of them to speak on the relevant subject. Law Minister Raja Basharat also kept mum for understandable reasons, though. After all, who will be the beneficiary in a situation when most of the members are not talking about the supplementary budget?

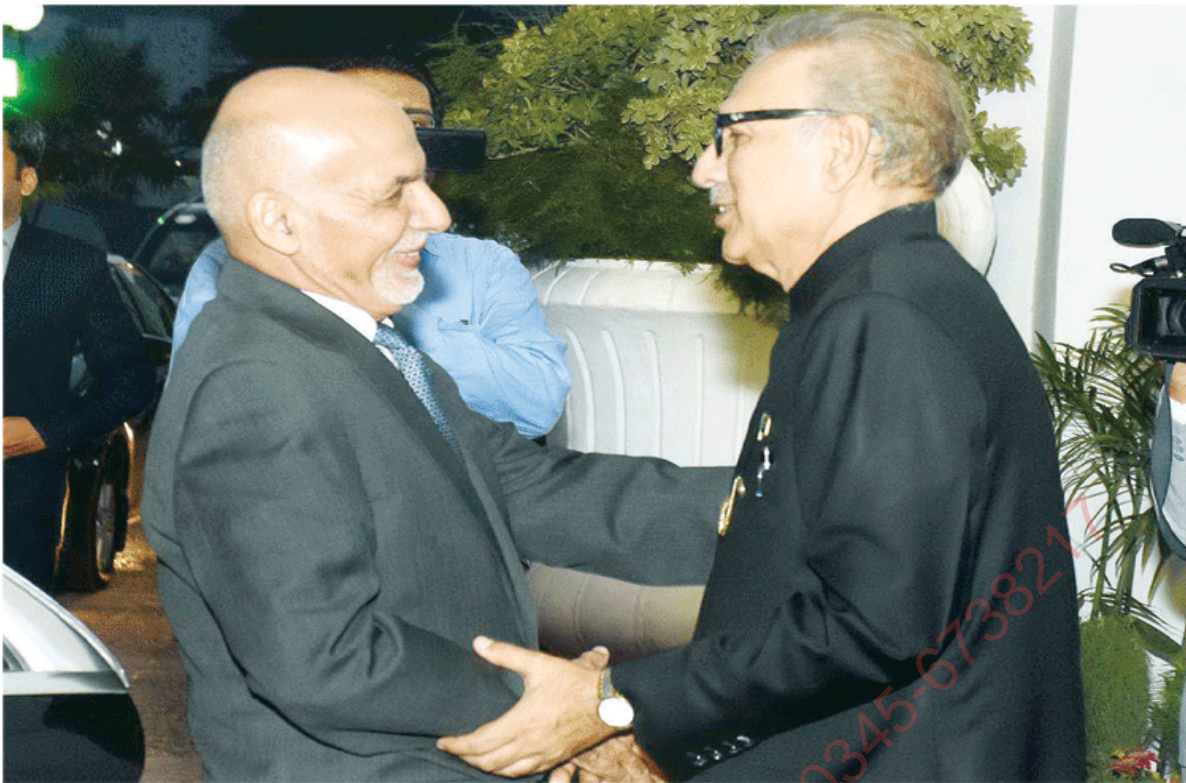
If a government presents supplementary budget in the assembly for approval, it simply means that it had little or no control over its expenditures in the preceding year. It also raises questions over the austerity measures every government claims to have taken to control its expenditures.

Also, it was evident from Thursday's assembly proceedings that PTI government sustaining on a

thin majority could not enforce strict discipline on a strong Opposition. And, if an attempt is made to bring it under strict control, the result would be a complete bedlam.

Deputy Speaker Sardar Dost Mazari Thursday did not allow PML-N stalwart Sheikh Alauddin to respond to the allegations leveled by Industries Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal.

Law Minister also told the chair that no member should be allowed to respond to a minister during the budget discussion. They could speak on their turn only. Following the minister's remarks, there was complete disorder in the house for over 10 minutes. No member could make a speech on the supplementary budget during this time. As the deputy speaker failed to restore order in the house, Mohammad Ahmad Khan of the PML-N saved the situation from getting bad to worse with his sensible handling of the whole affair. Sheikh Alauddin was later allowed to speak.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi receiving President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.—APP

Quick Read

Alvi for close Pak-Afghan co-op

ISLAMABAD (Staff Reporter): President Dr Arif Alvi has affirmed Pakistan's resolve to forge closer relationship with Afghanistan marked by deeper cooperation in all spheres.

He said this during a meeting with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani here on Thursday.

On the occasion, the two Presidents agreed that moving forward and building a relationship that served the cause of peace, security and prosperity was in the best interest of the two countries.

All aspects of the Pak-Afghan relations came under review during the meeting.

President Alvi underlined the importance that Pakistan attached to enhanced political, trade, economic, commercial, educational and people-to-people ties with Afghanistan.

Emphasizing the need for a peaceful solution of the conflict in Afghanistan, President Alvi underscored the importance of an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process in this regard.

He appreciated the progress achieved by Afghanistan during the past 18 years, despite enormous challenges.

He reassured that Pakistan, besides playing its role in the peace process, stood ready to help Afghan reconstruction and development efforts.

The President also underlined the need for the world community's engagement with Afghanistan in the post-settlement phase. The two leaders agreed that both Afghanistan and Pakistan would gain tremendously from peace and stability in the region.

They further agreed that increased connectivity between Pakistan and Afghanistan would help accelerate the trade and energy flows and contribute to the prosperity of the two countries and the region. The role of new technologies in this context was also recognized.

Following the meeting, President Alvi hosted a banquet dinner in honour of President Ghani and his entourage.

Maryam slams 'victimisation'

LAHORE (STAFF REPORTER): PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz called on former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at Kot Lakhpat jail on Thursday.

Accompanied by four other family members, she arrived at the jail at noon and stayed there for more than an hour.

PML-N workers welcomed Maryam Nawaz by showering rose petals on her vehicle. They chanted slogans in favour of PML-N Quaid and against the present regime. Maryam Nawaz expressed anger on not allowing Dr Adnan Khan to meet Nawaz Sharif.

"Today too only five members (close blood relations) were allowed to meet Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, that too under strict surveillance. This is violation of basic human rights. If this is Jaali Haaloomat's response to the conviction and principled stance, I am not going to be a passive spectator. Beware", she tweeted.

"Despite recurring angina, MNS's cardiologist is not being given access to him. Even today he was made to wait outside jail for two hours and sent back without meeting. Shame on Jaali-e-Azam", her other tweet reads.

"The victimisation increases as I become more vocal. Jaali-e-Azam is directly monitoring this. Would have been better if he had focused his energies on the sinking economy instead of Sharif family. What a pity, spiteful man", her another tweet reads.

PM for early hearing of PTI foreign funding case

Social Media Pakistan 0345-6738217

SHAHID RAO
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday filed an application in the Islamabad High Court for early hearing of PTI foreign funding case.

In the application, he stated that the hearing of the case did not resume after September 18, 2018 and therefore, requested the court to hear the intra-court appeal in this matter at the earliest.

In this matter, the case was first filed in November 2014 by PTI disgruntled member Akbar S Babar who accused the PTI and its leadership of corruption and illegal funding of the party. The proceedings of the case were delayed in the ECP as the PTI had filed a writ petition in October 2015 in the IHC seeking to restrain the ECP scrutiny of its accounts.

In February 2017, the IHC remanded the case back to the ECP for a fresh review of its jurisdiction. On May 8 last year, a full bench of the ECP once again expressed its complete jurisdiction over the case and stated that the PTI had failed to produce any evidence that the petitioner had been expelled from the party and hence lost the right to question PTI accounts.

Later, the PTI moved IHC and in his petition, PTI Chairman Imran Khan prayed to the court to declare the proceedings initiated by the committee against him "void, unlawful, without lawful authority and against the Constitution".

The PTI chairman stated in the petition that the ECP through the March 12 order constituted a second committee, comprising three members that included two members of the first committee, who distanced themselves from the commit-

tee due to personal reasons, resulting in the first committee to dissolve.

He added that after dissolution of the first committee, a second committee was constituted "but the terms of reference of the committee are violative of the observation of the Supreme Court as well as order passed by the IHC".

Khan said that the committee constituted by the ECP did not bother to read the orders passed by superior courts and shared all confidential documents with Akbar while Akbar made all the proceedings of the committee public via his social media accounts. He contended while referring to the IHC's order passed on September 7, 2017 that the court had ruled that "the Election Commission of Pakistan shall not share the details of the source of foreign funding of the PTI with any other individuals — including respondent No 2

[Akbar] till a final decision of this petition."

Imran's counsel maintained that Akbar's participation in the proceedings of the committee "is sheer violation of the guideline of the Supreme Court". He said that Akbar did not come with clean hand because he approached the ECP after his expulsion from the party and "[Akbar] is not free from malice, ill will and just aimed to harass the petitioner". He continued that the impugned order is based on mala fide intents and is not passed in a transparent manner. He added that Khan, in compliance of the IHC's order, submitted all documents before the ECP.

Therefore, he prayed to the court to set aside the ECP's March 12 order and declare the committee proceedings "void, unlawful and without lawful authority against the Constitution and law on the subject in the interest of justice".

Three accused seek acquittal in fake accounts case

APP
ISLAMABAD

An Accountability Court (AC) on Thursday granted time to National Accountability Bureau (NAB) till July 8, to submit reply against acquittal applications of three co-accused of Asif Zardari in fake accounts case including Nimar Majeed, Zulkarnain Majeed and Ali Kamal Majeed.

The NAB officials produced former President Asif Ali Zardari, Faryal Talpur and other accused before AC-1 Judge Arshad Malik, hearing the NAB reference.

During the hearing, Asif Zardari arrived at court rostrum and pleaded that the accused persons shouldn't be handcuffed as it was a white-collar crime.

"The accused were not dacoits, rather they hailed from educated families, he said and prayed the court to order NAB for removal of handcuffs.

On a query about production of Omni Group's head Anwar Majeed, Zardari argued that only 30 per cent heart of the accused was working, adding that NAB had arrested him from hospital a day before but again left him there due to his health condition.

He said that the NAB, however, arrested Anwar Majeed's son Abdul Ghani Majeed.

During hearing, the three accused including Nimar Majeed, Zulkarnain Majeed and Ali Kamal Majeed submitted their acquittal applications to the trial court.

At this, the judge remarked that the accused should have waited sometime to file such applications.

The counsel of the accused argued that the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had also stated in its order that his clients had no connection with fake accounts scam.

Accused Abdul Ghani Majeed also submitted a request to the court seeking medical facilities during NAB custody.

At this, the judge remarked that why not NAB office be converted into a hospital. The accused usually become sick after the arrests, he said.

Asif Zardari said that they were not such weak persons, adding, that he had faced 13-year imprisonment but nothing happened to him.

Meanwhile, the counsel for two accused Hussain Lawai and Tahir Raza expressed objection on non-production of his clients. He stated that the two accused were sick and their legal team and families were not being allowed to see them.

At this, the NAB officials produced the medical report of the accused persons before the court.

PM didn't violate ECP code

APP
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan's counsel Dr. Babar Awan on Thursday, in a reply to the Election Commission of Pakistan, maintained that premier, being a law abiding, principled and disciplined leader of the nation, had not violated any provision of code of conduct and he had gone to Ghotki to extend condolences to the family of deceased federal cabinet member Ali Mohammad Mehr.

Dr Babar Awan submitted reply to the show cause notice in the Election Commission of Pakistan regarding violation of election code of conduct, issued by Regional Election Commissioner NA-205 Benazirabad to the prime minister.

According to details issued by party's central media department, Prime Minister Imran Khan's counsel Dr. Babar Awan met Election Commissioner of Pakistan Secretary Babar Yaqoob Fateh Mohammad and submitted reply to the show cause notice issued by regional election commissioner NA-205 Benazirabad to the PM over alleged violation of ECP's code of conduct on June 19.

Dr. Babar said PTI had deep respect for electoral laws and code of conduct and prime minister, during his stay in Ghotki, had not participated in any political pro-

“Prime Minister, during his stay in Ghotki, didn't participate in any political programme nor he made any political statement”

Babar Awan says PTI has deep respect for electoral laws, code of conduct

programme/meeting/rally, nor he made any political statement or press talk. He went on to say that Para 17(part-B) of the code of conduct bars the president, prime minister, cabinet members and members of parliament from taking part in election campaign in any manner.

Dr Awan implied that the aforementioned clause didn't bar religious visit for condolence. He said the malicious, scandalous and baseless complaint, filed by the candidate was publicity-driven and an attempt to make hype in the media. "We reserve the right of filing a proper complaint for initiation of proceedings for making false and dishonest statement before the commission", he said. It is therefore requested, Dr Babar Awan added, the copy of the complaint along with affidavit of the complainant be provided and show cause notice issued be withdrawn, being misconceived and without any legal justification.

NATIONAL

Pakistan never played a double game: Gen Ehsan

MONITORING DESK
TASHKENT

General Ehsanul Haq retired as chairman joint chiefs of staff committee of the Pakistan military in October 2007. He was chief of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) between October 2001 and 2004, the crucial period that saw American intervention in Afghanistan.

He is also one of the key persons to have negotiated the ceasefire enforced in 2003 along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir with his Indian counterparts. Speaking with Anadolu Agency in Tashkent recently, Haq elucidated on some key issues.

Ehsanul Haq said Iran-US tension is already having a very serious impact, because of disruption of Iranian oil supply to the region. The tensions have also undermined the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, which was once touted as peace pipeline, as it was supposed to go to India as well. Its construction has been undermined and obstructed. As the tensions grow, they are now disrupting shipping lines, that is going to increase the price of oil, and uncertainty. That will not only affect the energy situation but an overall economic situation in South Asia, that includes India and Pakistan. "My assessment is that energy prices will skyrocket which will seriously undermine economies in the region particularly, Pakistan whose economy is struggling. India's economy is also not in good shape. The growth has been stagnant."

Regarding apprehensions that the Americans may block Pakistan arms supplies also, Gen Haq said, "My view is that this US policy is counterproductive and not sustainable. The US has a strong strategic interest in the region. But to enforce its own America first policy and to dictate foreign policies of countries in the region that are sovereign and allies, is not going to be to the advantage of the US itself."

My view, Gen Haq said, is Turkey and India both will very jealously protect autonomy in strategic decision making. And they may find it very difficult to align with the US dictate on this S-400 issue. They must find a diplomatic solution.

"Fortunately, or unfortunately, the non-NATO military ally status has not given any benefit to Pakistan. It has been tormented. The US-Pakistan military relationship has gradually lost its momentum. And there are

hardly any military transfers to Pakistan. Even military training arrangements have been at standstill. Consequently, the US ability to do anything about Pakistan procurement from Russia is minimal."

Regarding the endgame in Afghanistan, Gen Haq said "Right from 2001, Pakistan was very clear and very categorical. We repeatedly told our American friends; there is no military solution in Afghanistan. We used to impress upon them to transit from military operations to devising a political strategy to the interest of everybody. Unfortunately, it took them

Says Afghan peace process needs to be protected from vested interests

too long. Many years were wasted. There were many beneficiaries of this war as well. The war economy in Afghanistan had developed vested interests, who were getting benefited from the situation. They wanted to continue with a military strategy.

"Now when the political process has started my strong recommendation would be that it should be protected from its detractors in Washington, its detractors in Kabul and its detractors within the Taliban as well, and from those in the region who oppose it. What we had been telling Americans, they are realising now. After all, the Taliban are also Afghans. They are not Al-Qaeda. They could not have been denied a role in the future of Afghanistan. Our stated position stands. I am happy now that most of stakeholders are now engaged and desirous of the political solution."

Regarding allegations that Pakistan was lax in chasing Osama Bin Laden, Gen Haq said: "If you can recall the incident, the attack on the Indian Parliament happened in December 2001, while I joined ISI in October. I came when the Kabul bombing had already begun. Our focus was Afghanistan. At no stage has Bob Grenier ever accused Pakistan of not supporting the US wholeheartedly, even though they did not share their game plan with us."



They had not told us what they were doing in Tora Bora and when we did not know what was happening, then how could he have expected us to capture bin Laden. Also, at the very same moment, the Indian army was capturing the orders in the east. We had made it clear that unless our eastern borders are secure, we will not be able to provide requisite support at our western borders.

We wanted to contain any and all cross-border incidents because President [Pervez] Musharraf and I wanted to de-escalate the situation along the eastern border and normalise relations with India to focus on the emerging crisis in Afghanistan. It was during that time that the Indian Parliament attack happened. In my view, attacks like these don't happen so spontaneously. They need much planning.

I am sure the planning for this started much before 9/11 happened. Therefore, I don't think there is any linkage between the Tora Bora operations, the attack on the Indian Parliament or any other incidents along the eastern border.

While answering a query that Gen Haq had met then RAW chief CD Sahay to discuss a ceasefire during 2003 tensions, Gen Haq said "I do not and cannot comment on my activities when I was in office, but I had many meetings with interlocutors. But I cannot comment on a specific meeting. But I do confirm that many back channels evolved discussing the broader ambit of India-Pakistan relations and how to de-escalate tensions. These back channels ultimately converged into an agreement which led to the unilateral announcement of the ceasefire by Pakistan, which

India responded to. There was a lot of homework. In fact, Pakistan did not make the announcement unilaterally, but India was part of it.

At that time, there was also consensus that too many civilian casualties were taking place because of rising tension at the LoC. It is happening today as well. There is a need to revisit the ceasefire agreement of 2003 again."

Haq added the peace process had begun immediately after the ceasefire and it was believed that it would lead to permanent de-escalation. However, we have been insisting that a mechanism is put in place since then. Pakistan believes that there is a system of the United Nations Military Observers Group which is assigned to monitor violations. But India doesn't want to involve a third party. In my view, even today there is a need to establish who actually violates the LoC. We still have the UN option available.

Nonetheless, we are prepared to discuss any arrangement to monitor and establish who actually violates the LoC agreement. Strict observance of the ceasefire is fundamental to the rest of developments. When the ceasefire is continuously violated, you cannot expect the bus services to run peacefully. We cannot expect trade volume to remain normal or grow. It is causing a serious impact in perception and reality as well.

The former DG ISI asserted that Pakistan was never playing a double game in Afghanistan. "First of all, it is very unfortunate to hear that we are playing a double game. You see, Pakistan certainly has very good relations with the United States. We have made enormous sacrifices in support of their war on terror. But to expect that Pakistan will act against its own interests to extend US agenda is an unfair expectation. There are always disagreements on strategies and operationalizing them even among the best of friends, but to call these things a double game is most unfair in any relationship."

The fact is that the US and its strategies in Afghanistan have failed and that they have not been able to achieve the success they were hoping with the application of military power and enormous investment in terms of resources. We have supported peace and stability in Afghanistan. We have supported Afghan governments and Afghan-led and Afghan-based peace processes," he said.

PTA, Pemra submit replies in IHC in PTM case

SHAHID RAO
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and PEMRA have submitted their replies before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in a petition filed against anti-state and anti-army rhetoric of Pashtun Tahafuz Movement.

A single bench of IHC comprising Justice Aamer Farooq conducted hearing of the petition seeking ban on PTM as the same has neither been registered as a political party nor any as a corporate body, just an association of persons.

Later, the IHC bench deferred the hearing till July 16 for further proceedings in the petition moved by Colonel (Retd) Javed Iqbal through his counsel Barrister Shoab Razaq.

Previously, the bench had directed Man-

zoor Pashteen, Mohsin Dawar, Ali Wazir, Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of Defense, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to submit their replies in this regard. It had also sought written response from the Ministry of Interior in this matter.

In his petition, Javed made federation through ministry of law and justice, Ministry of Interior, ministry of defense, PEMRA, PTA, PTM through its chairperson Manzoor Pashteen and lawmakers Mohsin Dawar and Ali Wazir as respondents.

The petitioner prayed to the court to direct federation and other concerned respondents to take appropriate action against PTM, Dawar and Wazir under the prevailing laws in the best interest of the country and to uphold the respect and prestige of Pakistan Army.

He prayed that the court may ban PTM which has neither been registered as a political party nor any as a corporate body, just an association of persons and all those are held responsible for maligning Pakistan Army and other state institutions be tried under appropriate criminal laws.

The petitioner requested the court to declare that Pashteen, Dawar and Wazir have committed gross violation of Code of Conduct, 2015 and PEMRA Ordinance 2002 and that the Respondent No. 5 (PTA) has failed to stop and act against their violations.

He further requested the court to declare that these people have used electronic media and social media for hate speech, incitation, abetting, glamorizing or justifying violence, commission of crime, terror and which has led to or will lead to serious public disorder. Therefore,

they are liable to be banned for lifetime on all medium including but not limited to print media, electronic media and social media.

He was of the view that it should be declared that these people have maligning the state institutions and an attempt has been made to create division amongst the different ranks of Pakistan Army and therefore, the court may direct Respondent No. 5 and 6 (PEMRA and PTA respectively) to take serious action against them and ban them from hosting, appearing in any manner, including but not limited to, as a guest, analyst, reporter, actor in audio, video, beep, promo/advertisement in any electronic media. Petitioner also sought court's directions to PTA to immediately delete/block all social media accounts of the Respondent No. 4, 7 and 8 on all forums available on Internet or otherwise.

NOTICE FOR CHANGE OF BRANCH MANAGER EFG HERMES PAKISTAN LIMITED (A TRIC HOLDER OF PSX)

It is hereby informed to all market participants that Mr. Saad Iqbal is bearing CNIC No. 42301-0897908-5, has been appointed as Branch Manager in place of Mr. Shahid Kamal in Kamal Ahmad bearing CNIC No. 62401-1962927-7 of the Branch office of EFG Hermes Pakistan Limited, situated at 504, 5th Floor, Emerald Tower, Plot No. G-19, Block-5, Clifton, Karachi.

Shahid Kamal
Company Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform that deceased Ismail Tajuddin Sio Tajuddin, Ex-Master 1st Class, bearing Personal No. 051881, R/o 1-J, 60/4, Muslim League Quarters, Nazimabad No. 1, Karachi, having Plot No. 23, Category-B, Block-A, Measuring 300 Sq. Yards (Approx.) in GBTS Karachi has reportedly expired on 05-09-2002, leaving behind following legal heirs (1) Mst Hameeda Bano (Widow) (2) Mr. Zubair Ahmed (Son) (3) Mr. Zahoor Ahmed (Son). The above said plot is now being transferred in favor of the above named legal heirs. Anyone having any claim/objection regarding the Plot should notify Secretary Gulshan-e-Banazir Township Scheme PQA Karachi in writing within (15) fifteen days after issuance of this notice. No claim/objection after the above period shall be entertained by GBTS, PQA. Lt. Cdr@ Mashood Ahmed Khan (Director Administration)

Shisper Glacier recedes after water discharge

APP
ISLAMABAD

The risk for a heavy glacial lake outburst flooding, re-enacting the disaster occurred earlier at Attabad has been mitigated as supra-glacial Lake formed at the Shisper Glacier has completely discharged.

The Shisper Glacier had receded after heavy water flow below the surging glacier and had reduced the risk for glacial flooding in the region.

Talking to APP, Gilgit Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA)

official said, "The preemptive measures and protective work done by GBDMA helped the authority to ensure, for the first time practiced, effective disaster preparedness to avoid heavy life, ecology and property loss in Hassanabad Village."

He said that if the retaining walls were not built around the to-be affected vicinity then over a dozen households were to get affected through the flooding.

The GBDMA official mentioned that aerial visit of the glacial lake behind the Glacier had further clarified the situation and revealed that

the heavy water discharge from June 22 to June 23 in Hassanabad Nullah (watercourse) helped mitigate the risk and brought the accumulated glacial lake water down to negligible ratio.

He said, "It is a good sign and has overcome the possibility of abrupt glacial lake outburst that might have caused serious disaster in the area. The heavy water flow has partially caused damage to 50 feet (ft) to 100ft part of the Karakoram Highway (KKH)."

The teams of GBDMA and Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) with their heavy

machinery and staff has restored the damaged portion of KKH and resumed the road for all kinds of traffic," he added. To a question, he said, "The regular monitoring of the Glacier is continued by GBDMA as there are possibilities of glacial lake outburst flooding as water flow is going on and if it stops then it will indicate that glacial lake is forming. So, in order to amicably address the developing situation time to time observation of the glacier will be maintained." The official said that Pakistan Army and Air Force helicopters man-

aged the aerial visit of the glacial lake where Director General GBDMA, Assistant Commissioner Hunza and other senior officials were taken aboard.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform all Authorities including SECP and Board of Investment (BOI) that we Hydrochina Pakistan ceasing/ windup its Business and Registered office located at 1900-B, Saima Trade Tower, I.I. Chundrigar Road Karachi.

HBL HABIB BANK

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large and our valued customers that effective 27th July 2019, the entire business activities including customer accounts of selected HBL branch will be merged with the respective branch mentioned below.

Public at large and customers are requested to please note the changes and visit the respective HBL branch (as per the table below) for their banking needs.

S.No.	Branch Closing	Merging with	Contact Numbers
1	Code: 1404 HBL Badah Branch	Code: 0075 HBL Bunder Road Branch	074-4056860 074-4056865

OPEN MARKET STOCK RATES ON 27/06/2019

COUNTRY SELLING BUYING	US DOLLAR	JAPAN YEN	SAUDI RAYAL	UK POUND	EURO
	162.5 164.25	1.43 1.46	41.9 42.9	204.5 209	178.5 183.5

PRECIOUS METALS PRICES IN PAKISTANI RUPEE

METAL	GOLD 24K	PALLADIUM	PLATINUM	SILVER
10G 1 TOLA	74,098 86,337	80,283 93,543	42,872 49,953	805 938

Quick Read
Businesswomen asked to take full benefit of Assets Declaration Ord

PESHAWAR (STAFF REPORTER): Officials of the Regional Tax Office (RTO) Peshawar have asked the women businesspersons to take full benefit of the Assets Declaration Ordinance 2019 to bring their undeclared assets into documented economy.

A four member team of Regional Tax Office Peshawar, comprising on Additional Commissioner Saima Khan, Deputy Commissioner Riaz Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Bayla Khan, Assistant Commissioner Nida and Shahid visited the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Peshawar and gave a detailed briefing to the business community on the Assets Declaration Scheme 2019, said a press statement issued here on Thursday.

Besides, the WCCI Peshawar president, Azra Jamshid, founder president of the chamber Ms Fitrat Ilyas and other office bearers, a large number of women businesspersons were present on the occasion.

The team of Regional Tax Office Peshawar briefed the participants about the Assets Declaration Ordinance 2019 and regarding various taxes and mentioned irritants due to not availing the benefit from the scheme and non-payment of different taxes. They also informed about online filing of declarations through FBR web portal.

The officials viewed that revenue collection was not the main agenda of Assets Declaration Scheme 2019, rather it was meant for allowing undocumented economy into taxation system. They added that the scheme focused on economic revival and growth by encouraging a tax compliant economy.

The RTO team elaborated that any undisclosed assets acquired up to 30th June 2018 could be declared through this scheme on payment of nominal taxes. He said that scheme was opened by 30th June 2019 and would not be further extended.

PSX stays bearish, loses 314 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The KSE 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bearish trend on Thursday as it lost 314.14 points (0.93%) to close at 33774.42 points.

A total of 111,731,650 shares were traded, whereas the value of shares traded during the day stood at Rs 4.215 billion.

Out of 307 companies, share prices of 129 companies recorded increase while that of 156 companies registered decline whereas 22 companies remained stable.

KEL was the volume leader with 24,990,500 shares, and its per share price decreased by 0.02 to close at Rs 4.21 per share.

PAEL remained the runner up with 7,528,000 shares traded during the day and its price decreased by Rs0.48 per share to close at Rs 20.01 followed by FFBL, trading volume of which was recorded at 6,485,000 shares, and its price per share increased by Rs0.10 and closed at Rs17.95 per share.

GDP to further shrink to 2.7pc in FY2019-20: Fitch Solutions

IMRAN ALI KUNDI
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's GDP would further plunge to 2.7 percent in next fiscal year (2019-20) mainly due to the tighter monetary and fiscal policies as result of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s bailout package, said Fitch Solutions in its latest analysis of Pakistan's economy. The macro research arm of the global credit ratings agency revised its forecast for Pakistan's real GDP growth to come in at 3.2 percent in outgoing fiscal year FY18/19 and 2.7 percent in upcoming fiscal year FY19/20 from 4.4 percent in FY18/19 and 4 percent in FY19/20 previously. This is mainly due to the tighter monetary and fiscal policies amid an already subdued economic growth outlook.

Inflation has been on the rise in Pakistan, increasing by 9.1 percent on annual basis in May, compared with 4.2 percent in same period of previous year. Moreover, as part of the deal with the IMF, Pakistan promised to reduce its primary deficit to 0.6 percent of GDP in FY19/20, primarily through tax-based measures including raising the tax rate on sugar from 8 percent to 17 percent and moving cigarette taxes into higher brackets. "Given our expectations for continued upside pressure on consumer prices over the coming months, we believe that the consumers' purchasing power will continue to fall over the coming months, thereby weighing on consumption. However, we note that some of the effect of price hikes

Growth to fall due to tighter monetary and fiscal policies

will be partially offset by the government's populist measures, such as providing electricity subsidies to consumers who use less than 300 units of electricity per month," the Fitch Solutions noted.

It forecasted government spending (around 12 percent of GDP) to slow in growth to 6.4 percent in FY19/20, down from 14.2 percent in FY17/18, as the country embarks on an austerity drive. IMF bailout packages typically require countries to undergo fiscal consolidation, which usually include austerity measures. While Pakistan and the IMF have agreed on focusing on tax-based measures to manage the fiscal deficit, according to media reports, we believe that the Pakistani government will fall short of its ambitious revenue targets and will likely have to cut spending to meet the primary deficit target of 0.6 percent of GDP, it added.

"We expect to see little improvement in Pakistan's net exports, which recorded a deficit of around 11% of GDP in FY17/18. Despite the government's efforts to increase export competitiveness, such as subsidising electricity and gas to the industrial and export sectors, a global slowdown in demand for Pakistani exports over the coming months. Our view is for

global growth to slow from 3.2% in 2018 to 2.9% by 2020, with growth in two of the largest main export destinations, the US and China, slowing to 2.0% and 6.1% respectively by 2020, from 2.9% and 6.6% in 2018," Fitch Solutions noted.

Moreover, it believed that imports could increase over the coming months acting as a slight drag on growth. Given that Pakistan's main imports are petroleum and its products (around 28 percent of total imports); rising oil prices will likely weigh on net exports. Our Oil and Gas team forecasts Brent Crude oil prices to average USD70/barrel (bbl) in 2019 and USD76/bbl in 2020, from a year-to-date average of USD66.15/bbl. The impact of rising oil prices on imports will be exacerbated by a weakening currency. Following the agreement with the IMF, the Pakistani rupee has been devalued by more than 10% to around PKR157/USD at the time of writing, from around PKR142/USD before the agreement took place in May.

Fitch solution believed that investment, which accounts for approximately 17 percent of GDP, will slow in growth to 5.1 percent in FY19/20, from 5.7 percent in FY17/18, as tighter monetary policy implemented by the SBP will likely weigh on investment. Since the start of the fiscal year (July 2018), the SBP has increased its policy rate by 575bps, to 12.3 percent in May from 6.5 percent in the beginning of July 2018. Moreover, the government has committed to borrow less from the SBP as part of the IMF deal, which will improve the monetary policy transmission in the

country. In addition, business sentiment will likely remain subdued in Pakistan, leading to slower investment growth. Pakistan's Karachi Stock Exchange-100 Index has already fallen by more than 14% since July 2018, reaching the lowest levels since March 2016, suggesting that investor confidence in the economy has fallen. The large-scale manufacturing (LSM) industries have also been contracting over the past few months, with the quantum index recording a 6.7% y-o-y decline in March. With a slowdown of manufacturing activity, we expect to see a fall in investment appetite related to LSM industries, such as investment in capital.

That said, investment related to the CPEC, a centerpiece of China's Belt and Road Initiative, will likely provide some support to the economy over the coming quarters. Construction of many key CPEC projects has already started and will stretch over the coming years. In addition, there are more projects in the pipeline that are still at the planning stage but will likely commence soon. We believe that the CPEC will continue to make progress given China's continued push on project implementation and the improving bilateral relationship between the two countries. Debt concerns, which were one of the major challenges for CPEC projects, also seem to have receded for now. In December 2018, Pakistan's Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms and the Chinese embassy in Pakistan released statements to improve transparency of the financials relating to CPEC projects.

Government will fall short of its ambitious revenue targets and will likely have to cut spending to meet the primary deficit target of 0.6 percent of GDP



ISLAMABAD:
A vendor is selling fruits in capital city.—INP

Govt hopes IMF will approve \$6b bailout package on July 3

IMRAN ALI KUNDI
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan believes that International Monetary Fund (IMF) would approve bailout package worth of \$6 billion in its executive board meeting on July 3, 2019 as Islamabad has taken all advance actions agreed with the Fund.

Pakistan had agreed with the IMF for taking tough economic decisions before the Fund executive board meeting, which would consider approving loan programme for Islamabad. An IMF mission led by Ernesto Ramirez Rigo visited Pakistan from April 29 to May 11, to discuss IMF support for the authorities' economic reform programme. On 12 May 2019, Pakistani authorities and the IMF team reached a staff level agreement. The agreement is subject to IMF Executive Board approval, which would meet on July 3.

Pakistan has met IMF's prior conditions including a market based exchange rate, a raise in the discount rate and 0.6 percent primary deficit in budget for fiscal year 2019-20. In last couple of days, the rupee value has gone down to historic low level. The US dollar rose by Rs2.34 in the interbank market to reach Rs164.5 on Thursday. Market sources are of the view that Pakistan had agreed with IMF to take the dollar value to Rs165 before its executive board meeting. Pakistani currency is under pressure since

After taking tough decisions on IMF demand, govt would further increase power prices in next few months

Islamabad and IMF had reached on staff level agreement in May 2019. Since May 12, 2019, the dollar value had gone to Rs162 from around Rs140.

Meanwhile, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Wednesday approved in principle up to 191 per cent increase in gas price. The government has also given approval to increase the electricity price by Rs1.5 per unit. However, there would be no increase for the domestic consumers using up to 300 units per month. Pakistan in staff level agreement with IMF had agreed to increase the prices of gas and electricity to reduce the soaring circular debt and losses. As per plan, the government would increase the power tariff by Rs2.60 per unit in two stages, enhancing g the tariff to Rs 15.58 per unit from existing rates of Rs 12.98 per unit. Sources said that government would further increase the power prices in next few months.

The SBP had already increased hiked the key interest rate by 150 basis points to a 91-month (nearly eight-year) high at 12.25 percent in anticipation of acceleration of inflation under the IMF loan programme. The government had agreed to increase the key interest rate by two percentage points under the 39-month IMF loan programme worth \$6 billion. Accordingly, the latest rate hike was a must to get IMF board's final approval for the loan.

Uncontrollable dollar hits Rs164 in interbank market

NNI
KARACHI

Pakistani rupee further lost its value by Rs1.84 against the US dollar on Thursday and reached Rs164 in the interbank market. In the open market, the greenback is being traded at Rs164.25 after an increase of 1.25 paises. Within just two days, surprisingly, the devaluation of the local currency has been recorded to be more than Rs7, a private television channel reported Thursday. The massive fresh devaluation of rupee has been observed despite assurance of the new governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Reza Baqir that there would be no free-float in the market as it was not suitable for the country's economy. He had said that the exchange rate would be market-based.

However, the value of the US dollar against the rupee touched another historical high as the greenback hit Rs162.16 in the interbank market after rupee devalued by Rs5.18. The significant hike in the value of the US dollar has raised fears that prices of essential commodities, particularly imported products, would follow the similar trend. Since the start of this month, the rupee has been devalued by Rs16.42 which in turn has raised Pakistan's external debt by more than Rs1,400 billion.

According to experts, the government must ensure implementations on economic policies after the deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It is anticipated that the US dollar rate would fluctuate for some time, and the value of the Pakistani rupee would stabilise after proper implementation of the economic policies. Economists, amid the widespread speculations about the currency's free-float in the market, fear that the rate of the greenback may rise further. Currency dealers are anticipating that the financial year end, coupled with rumors about a higher future value of the dollar, are responsible for the current situation.

Last week, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Reza Baqir held a press conference, and took businessmen and investors into confidence that Pakistan had accepted all conditions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and expressed hope that the global moneylender would approve the bailout to Pakistan on July 3.

Furthermore, following the approval, other international financial institutions are also likely to extend financial assistance to Pakistan, which in consequence would result in high inflows of the greenback. The volatility in the currency market had subsided in the days prior to Eid-ul-Fitr amid high inflows during the festive season.

SPORTS

Quick Read

Three Pak juniors crash out of Asian Individual Squash

ISLAMABAD (Staff Reporter): It was a highly disappointing day for Pakistani junior players in the 26th Asian Junior Individual Squash Championship 2019, as three main players crashed out at the second hurdle in Macau on Thursday.

Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) has sent eight players for playing in U-13, U-15, U-17 and U-19 age group along with a coach and the manager for the championship. In the Under-13 second round match, unseeded Mak Tsun Hei of Hong Kong defeated Abdullah Nawaz of Pakistan 3-2, winning 9-11, 11-1, 9-11, 11-6 and 12-10.

In Under-15, Mohammad Hamza Khan of Pakistan beat Jaivir Singh of India 3-0, winning 11-7, 11-3 and 11-1. In Under-17, Neel Joshi of India defeated M Farhan Hashmi of Pakistan 3-0, winning 14-12, 11-9 and 11-7. Navaneeth Prabhus of India beat Noor Zaman of Pakistan 3-2, as the score was 11-13, 11-4, 9-11, 11-9 and 11-9. In Under-19, Haris Qasim of Pakistan beat Ho Ka On of Hong Kong 3-1, with scores of 11-3, 11-3, 9-11 and 11-8. Hamza Sharif of Pakistan beat Lam Shing Fung of Hong Kong 3-2, winning 11-3, 9-11, 11-5, 9-11 and 11-5.

In U-15 quarterfinals, Mohammad Hamza Khan will play against Shameel Haeyez of Malaysia, in U-19 category, Haris Qasim will play against Aaron Jon Widhaha of Singapore while Hamza Sharif will play against Darryl Gan of Malaysia.

Haider, Abbas excel in Pakistan U19 victory

LAHORE (Staff Reporter): Opener Haider Ali's 116 and Abbas Afridi four for 40, helped Pakistan U19 to win the third 50-over match against South Africa U19 by six wickets and take a 3-0 lead in the seven-match series at the Pietermaritzburg Oval in Pietermaritzburg on Thursday.

Chasing a 277-run target, Pakistan U19 achieved victory inside 43 overs with six wickets remaining. Haider Ali hit 16 fours and two sixes in his 111-ball 116 runs knock. Haider added 51 runs for the first wicket with Saim Ayub (21), while added 102 runs with Fahad Munir (50) for the third wicket. Rohail Nazir (33) provided additional support. For the hosts, Tiaan van Vuuren took two for 49.

Earlier, after electing to bat first, South Africa U19 were dismissed for 276 in 49.3 overs. Raun Terblanche top-scored with 110 that came off 134 balls and included twelve fours, while Luke Beaufort scored 50 off 73 balls and hit eight boundaries. Abbas was the pick of Pakistan U19 bowlers with figures of four for 40, while Shiraz Khan took three wickets for 66 runs.

Earlier, Pakistan U19 had won the first and second 50-over match by 17 runs and four wickets, respectively. The fourth match of the series will be played on Sunday at the same venue. Third 50-over match, Pietermaritzburg, Pakistan U19 won by six wickets

SCORES IN BRIEF:
SOUTH AFRICA U19: 276 all out in 49.3 overs (Raun Terblanche 110, Luke Beaufort 50; Abbas Afridi 4-40; Shiraz Khan 3-66)
PAKISTAN U19: 280-4 in 42.1 overs (Haider Ali 116, Fahad Munir 50; Tiaan van Vuuren 2-49)

Qadir warns Pakistan of complacency in remaining two matches

MOHSIN ALI
ISLAMABAD

Former Test cricketer Abdul Qadir has praised Shaheen Shah, Babar Azam and Haris Sohail for their outstanding performances to help Pakistan beat New Zealand in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 at Birmingham.

Talking to The Nation, Qadir, who was also PCB chief selector, said: "Fortune always favours the brave. Same happened against the Kiwis, as it was sheer good luck for Sarfraz Ahmed that he lost the toss, or else he would be in a fix again, whether to bowl or bat in overcast conditions, as Williamson won the toss and opted to bat first."

"It was Sarfraz' day, as Muhammad Aamir managed to take wicket on a delivery, which could be hit for a boundary, had Gup-til not played it onto his stumps."

The way Shaheen Shah Afridi utilised the conditions, his deliveries were almost unplayable and he completely outclassed the Kiwis top order, with his sensational bowling display," he added.

The former cricketer also gave credit to Sarfraz Ahmed for his outstanding wicketkeeping against New Zealand. "The way Sarfraz took three outstanding catches, it was enough to prove his fitness and a slap on the faces of critics, who don't know the ABC of cricket and just have an aim to pile pressure on Pakistan cricket team."

"The captain proved his fitness. In cricket, physical fitness has been proved through your ability, how you bat and bowl and how to field. Sarfraz was at the top of his game, but another big question arises here that when New Zealand had lost



“Pakistan team was badly struggling in the tournament, but two matches changed the entire atmosphere

5 wickets with only 83 runs on the board, why Neesham and Grandhomme were given so much liberty to add 132 runs for the sixth-wicket stand. Both the Kiwi batsmen almost took the match away from Pakistan and helped New Zealand post 237 runs, which was not a bad total at all," he added.

Qadir said Williamson did poor captaincy, as New Zealand had managed to grab the wickets of both Pakistani openers with only 44 runs on the board. In the second innings, bowling-friendly wicket was turned into batting paradise as fast bowlers were not getting any assistance from the wicket. "Credit must be given to both Babar Azam and Haris Sohail for extraordinary batting, but New Zealand's otherwise outstanding fielding is to be blamed for as they gave simple chances to Haris"

"If Haris was out-stumped, Pakistan could have lost the match. Williamson badly missed the trick and kept on using fast bowlers. He should have used his main weapon Santner, who could be highly lethal in those conditions and could have provided key wickets, but Williamson had other things in mind," he added.

Qadir said luck factor always play crucial role in such mega events. "Pakistan team was badly struggling in the tournament, but two matches changed the entire atmosphere and same Pakistan team, which was looking down and out, all of a sudden started producing extraordinary results."

"Now the big task of winning two important matches against South Africa and New Zealand has been achieved with flying colours. But both were done going harder way. Pakistan should

have beaten New Zealand at least 8 to 10 overs earlier, but the batsmen consumed too many precious deliveries before chasing the target. Now they have to be aware of complacency and ensure their feet remain on the ground."

"The way, Pakistan fielders dropped seven catches and still they won, is remarkable and it clearly shows that prayers of millions of Pakistani people are doing wonders for the green caps. But Bangladesh will not give Pakistan same liberty, if they repeat same mistakes and give chances to them as if green caps provide Bangalis any liberty, they have to suffer badly. The team played well and they must continue with same mentality against remaining two opponents, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, and leave the rest," Qadir concluded.



LE HAVRE: English women players train under the watchful eyes of coach Phil Neville ahead of their FIFA Women's World Cup quarterfinal against Norway.

Coach Neville relaxed ahead of England-Norway quarterfinal

AGENCIES
LE HAVRE

Facing his biggest match as a first-team manager, England's Phil Neville seemed remarkably relaxed with a day to go. Unlike the former Manchester United and England player's wife, Julie.

"She worries like mad, prays, lights candles," he said. "She is struggling with the games." Neville isn't focused on the prospect of falling short Thursday night against Norway, a team ranked nine places lower than No. 3 England, which has had three clean sheets in its four games in the Women's World Cup.

"I lost my job at (Manchester) United, I lost my job at Valencia, it happens," he said. "Football is like that. I don't go into a game thinking about losing. I go into a game thinking I am going to have fun, thinking I am here and I am going to do the best that I can, and whatever happens, as long as we do our best, that's the way my mentality is."

A semifinal is the least expected of this team, which reached that stage at the last World Cup and 2017 European Championship under Mark Sampson. But Neville's preparations for the Norway game have been disrupted by a blow that could deny him England's first-choice central defensive partnership. Captain Steph Houghton and Millie Bright are "major doubts," Neville said Wednesday.

Houghton's injury was known, an ankle problem sustained in a tackle during a fiery and rough 3-0 round of 16 victory over Cameroon. But

Women's World Cup First Quarterfinal ENGLAND VS NORWAY

she was seen in training Wednesday. Bright's problem was unknown until Neville revealed it in the northwest France port city of Le Havre. "Millie has a virus that's going through the camp," Neville said. "You will pick up bugs along the way," Neville said. "That's always a good thing to have, that siege mentality, and they look like they are having fun and smiling." Norway's only defeat so far in France was to the hosts in the group stage, but it relied on penalties to oust Australia in the round of 16. Four years ago in Canada, England blocked Norway from making it to the quarterfinals. "There will be a bit of revenge if we were to win," Norway goalkeeper Ingrid Hjelmseth said. "It was a tough match last time. The English have developed since then so it's going to be a very interesting football match."

The Norway coach is different, too, with Martin Sjogre at the helm despite losing all three games in Euro 2017 group stage. "Since Martin and the rest of the team has come in, we've had a good philosophy," Hjelmseth said. "We've developed a lot and we're really believing. If you believe what you're doing you develop even more. We have shown the world we can roll the ball in Norway as well."

Ahmed continues winning spree in All-Pakistan Tennis

MOHSIN ALI
ISLAMABAD

Ahmed Chaudhry's dream continues unabated in the 3rd SNGPL All-Pakistan Tennis Championship 2019 as he defeated veteran Davis Cupper Shahzad Khan in straight sets to reach the final here at Senator Dilawar Abbas PTF Complex on Thursday.

In a one-sided affair, Ahmed took full advantage of Aqeel Khan's absence, who is helping Pakistan's international star Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi in preparing for international tournaments and ATP events, and overwhelmed fifth seed Shahzad 6-4, 6-3.

Shahzad, who is well-known for his powerful serves and passing shots down the line, despite gaining weight and having fitness issues, posed massive challenge for Ahmed, who had once won the national ranking title by beating Aqeel Khan in 2017. The first set started with Ahmed settling down well and putting Shahzad under enormous pressure, but Shahzad had answers for all the questions thrown at him by the youngster. But when it was 4-4, Ahmed started playing aggressive game and won it 6-4. Ahmed played the second set in a better way and overcame the experienced campaigner 6-3.

Davis Cupper Abid Ali Akbar also booked his place in the final after eliminating second seed Muzammil Murtaza 6-3, 6-2 in the second semifinal. Abid Ali was in fine touch and stunned the second seed Muzammil with his powerful game and better planning, this set final clash against Ahmed Ch. In ladies event, Sarah Mahboob, Sara Mansoor, Mehak Khokhar and Noor Malik (ZTBL) moved into the semifinals by eliminating their respective opponents in straight sets. Unseeded Mehak stunned third seed Esha Jawad and now will face top seed Sara Mansoor in the semifinal. The second semifinal will contested between second seed Sarah Mehboob and fourth seed Noor Malik of ZTBL.

In 16&Under category, Nalain Abbas, Faizan Faiz, Sami Zaib and Hamid Ispir qualified for the semifinals by winning their respective matches. Top seed Nalain Abbas struggled hard to win his encounter against Uzair Khan in a thrilling and best encounter of the day. Unseeded Sami Zaib registered another upset by eliminating Hassan Ali without conceding a single game and will face Hamid Ispir in the semifinal.

In girls 18&U singles semifinals, Zahra Salman beat Azeena Aleem 6-2, 6-3; Sheeza Sajid beat Mahrubh Farooqi 6-0, 6-0; in boys 18&U singles semifinals, Ahmed Kamil beat Aqib Hayat 6-2, 6-3; Sami Zaib (SNGPL) beat Subhan Bin Salik 7-6 (5), 7-5.

In boys 14&U singles semifinals, Hamid Ispir (SNGPL) beat Huzama A Rehman 4-1, 5-3; Kashan Omer beat Uzair Khan 5-3, 2-4, 5-3. In boys and girls 12&U singles quarterfinals, Hamza Roman (SNGPL) beat Ali Zain 4-0, 4-0; Shawsawar beat Moeaz Gul 4-0, 4-1; Hamad Masood beat Subhan Sehar 2-4, 4-1, 4-2; Asad Beat Amir Mizari 4-1, 5-4 (4). In boys and girls 10&U singles semifinals, Hamza Roman (SNGPL) beat Amir Mizari 4-0, 4-0; Hania Minhas Beat Nabeel 4-0, 4-0.

In boys 14&U doubles semifinals, Bilal Asim/Ahmed Nael beat Hamza Jawad/Asad 6-2, 6-4 while Uzair Khan/Kashan Omer got w/o against Hamza Roman/Huzama Abdul Rehman. In boys 16&U doubles semifinals, Nalain Abbas/Farman Shakeel beat Kamran Khan/Hamza Khan 6-4, 6-2 while Hamid Ispir/Sami Zaib (SNGPL) beat Faizan Faiz/Hassan Ali 6-2, 6-2. In boys 18&U doubles semifinals, Ahmed Kamil/Subhan bin Salik beat Muhammad Asim/Muhammad Aqib 6-0, 6-0 while Muhammad Abdullah/Aqib Hayat beat M Huzafa/M Talha Khan 6-4, 7-6 (5).

In ladies event, Sarah Mahboob, Sara Mansoor, Mehak Khokhar and ZTBL's Noor Malik breeze into the semifinals by eliminating their respective opponents in straight sets



MANCHESTER: MS Dhoni plays an impressive unbeaten knock of 58 runs against West Indies.

Babar terms his knock 'best' against Kiwis

OUR STAFF REPORTER
LAHORE



Pakistan cricket teams most reliable batsman century maker against New Zealand, Babar Azam, has termed his knock 'best', which doubled his joy with his team's success in the crucial match of the World Cup at Edgbaston ground.

Babar continued his eye-catching form with an unbeaten 101 against unbeatable New Zealanders and kept alive Pakistan's hope for a semifinal qualification. It was his 10th career ODI century, and Pakistan's first World Cup 100 scored by a non-opening batsman since 1997.

And it was as cultured an innings as you could wish for, a series of aesthetically pleasing strokes puncturing the New Zealand field. Brilliant, brutal and, for Pakistan, incredibly timely. No wonder he called it his best yet, as he fended off the threat of Trent Boult and Lockie Ferguson's pace and Mitchell Santner's spin in sure-footed style. "This is my best innings," said Babar.

"The wicket was very difficult and turned a lot in the second half. The plan was to go through to the end and give my 100 per cent. When we started, the plan was to see out Ferguson but when Santner came on, the plan became not to give wickets to him and cover up later when the fast bowlers come on. We are confident we are taking match by match, and hopefully we will qualify. We are very focussed on this," he added.

Sachin Tendulkar famously scored 523 runs for India at the 1996 World Cup aged just 22. It's a record 24-year-old Babar, currently on 333 at this tournament, may well be eyeing, with two more group matches to come against Afghanistan and Bangladesh. He is fifth on the list of all-time under-25 run scorers, level with Brian Lara's contribution in 1992, and within touching distance of Ricky Ponting's 354 in 1999 and AB de Villiers' 372 in 2007.

Haris Sohail provided the back-up as Pakistan ended New Zealand's unbeaten run with a six-wicket victory but Babar will rightly steal the headlines. He was stuck on 99 when he slashed the ball through deep cover, sending the Pakistan crowd to new heights of crazy and embracing Haris, with whom he shared an ultimately decisive 126-run fourth wicket stand.

Lost, won, washout, lost, lost, lost, won, they played New Zealand in their seventh game 27 years ago too and won that. And history duly repeated itself in Birmingham.

West Indies eliminated as India continue unbeaten campaign

AGENCIES
MANCHESTER

West Indies have been eliminated from the Men's Cricket World Cup 2019, after losing out to India by 125 runs at Old Trafford.

On a beautifully clear, hot day at Old Trafford, Virat Kohli looked to have hit the jackpot when he won the toss and opted to bat first on

a hard, flat track, but a cracking bowling performance by Pakistan, with combatting India's middle-order hitters in the latter stages.

He managed to snare Hardik Pandya for a 38-ball 46, and some probing lengths prevented MS Dhoni from reaching his brutal, finisher-potential, as the 37-year-old prevailed unscathed for 56 from 61 deliveries. Windies floundered in their pursuit of 269, and early scalps from the rampant Indian seamers left Holder's team with a steep uphill climb.

Mohammad Shami followed up his magnificent hat-trick against Afghanistan with another vital contribution, dismissing Chris Gayle (6) in the fifth over before following up with the wicket of Shai Hope (5) in the seventh.

Of the West Indies batters, only Sunil Ambris - making his first appearance of CWC19 - and Nicholas Pooran put up any sort of fight in their side's response. The former departed for 31 after being pinned lby by Pandya, while the latter stuck around for 50 balls before falling to Kuldeep Yadav for 28. Jasprit Bumrah took two wickets in as many balls to see the end of Carlos Brathwaite and Fabian Allen, and tail was cleaned up with relative ease as India secured the win by 125 runs.

SCORECARD

INDIA:	S Ambris lwb b Pandya.....	31
K Rahul b Holder.....	S Hope b Mohammed Shami.....	5
R Sharma c Hope b Roach.....	N Pooran c Shami b K Yadav.....	28
V Kohli c sub b Holder.....	S Hettinger c Rahul b M Shami.....	18
V Shrikar c Hope b Roach.....	J Holder c Jadhav b Chahal.....	6
K Jadhav c Hope b Roach.....	C Brathwaite c Dhoni b Bumrah.....	1
MS Dhoni not out.....	F Allen lwb b Bumrah.....	0
H Pandya c Allen b Cottrell.....	K Roach not out.....	14
M Shami c Hope b Cottrell.....	S Cottrell lwb b Chahal.....	10
Kuldeep Yadav not out.....	O Thomas c Sharma b Shami.....	6
EXTRAS: (b 1, w 6).....	EXTRAS: (b 9, lb 3, nb 1, w 5).....	18
TOTAL: (7 wts, 50 overs).....	TOTAL: (all out, 34.2 overs).....	143
FOW: 1-29, 2-98, 3-126, 4-140, 5-180, 6-250, 7-252	FOW: 1-10, 2-16, 3-71, 4-80, 5-98, 6-107, 7-107, 8-112, 9-124, 10-143	
BOWLING: SS Cottrell 10-0-50-2, KAJ Roach 10-0-36-3, O Thomas 7-0-63-0, FA Allen 10-0-52-0, JO Holder 10-2-33-2, CR Brathwaite 3-0-33-0	BOWLING: Mohammed Shami 6.2-0-16-4, JJ Bumrah 6-19-2, HH Pandya 5-0-28-1, Kuldeep Yadav 9-1-35-1, KM Jadhav 10-4-0, YS Chahal 7-0-39-2	
WEST INDIES:	TOSS: India	
C Gayle c Jadhav b M Shami.....	UIMPRES: R Kettleborough, R Illingworth	

POINTS TABLE

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Lost	N/R	Points	Net RR
1	Australia	7	6	1	0	12	+0.906
2	India	6	5	0	1	11	+1.160
3	New Zealand	7	5	1	1	11	+1.028
4	England	7	4	3	0	8	+1.051
5	Bangladesh	7	3	3	1	7	-0.133
6	Pakistan	7	3	3	1	7	-0.976
7	Sri Lanka	6	2	2	2	6	-1.119
8	West Indies	7	1	5	1	3	-0.320
9	South Africa	7	1	5	1	3	-0.324
10	Afghanistan	7	0	7	0	0	-1.634

Shaheen, Babar had a super day against New Zealand

BY WAQAR YOUNIS

Shaheen Shah Afridi is only 19 so he will have bad days and super days, against New Zealand it was definitely the latter.

Babar Azam was Player of the Match, and deservedly so for what was an exceptional innings, but Shaheen bowled brilliantly. He got his lines right, he was disciplined, he swung the ball and he picked up wickets. That was what set the game up for Pakistan and was great to see. He is still learning the art so he will make mistakes and Pakistan have to be prepared for that. So far he's only really played T20 and a few Tests and in the game against Australia I thought he looked a little lost. He wasn't sure what line or length to bowl. Then against South Africa he got a wicket and seemed to gain some confidence. The more he plays, the better he will be because of his age, so I'm hopeful that he will deliver in the coming games.

The only reason Shaheen didn't get player of the match against New Zealand was because

of Babar, who was fantastic. It was a great innings in difficult conditions, but even more so because it came when Pakistan really needed it. I also need to give credit to Haris Sohail, who has come into the team and scored consecutive fifties to get Pakistan back into the tournament.

They seemed to start this ICC Men's Cricket World Cup unsure of what their best combinations were. Shadab Khan coming back into the team seems to have helped them strike a balance and then Haris' form has pushed them over the top. The momentum seems to have shifted with these two wins, as well as England losing to Australia. That result gave Pakistan some hope. They knew that if they beat New Zealand they could increase the pressure on England and give themselves a real chance of making the semi-finals.

The danger is now that complacency starts to creep in. After beating South Africa and then unbeaten New Zealand, it would be easy to get carried away. They cannot allow that to happen, they need to focus on the next game against Afghanistan and make sure they win.

They also cannot worry about other results. If Pakistan beat Afghanistan and Bangladesh, they will have done their job, hopefully it will be enough to reach the semi-finals.

It is becoming impossible to ignore the parallels with 1992. The similarities are freaky and even though the players won't have been thinking about it, there is no way they can put it out of their minds altogether. It's moving in the direction that they might qualify and if it does, that would be something very special if they could win the World Cup. But of course, the players can't focus on that at all.

That 1992 World Cup was an emotional time for me, being part of the team initially and then breaking my back just before the tournament and having to leave the team to go back home. It was heartbreaking, especially when we won. I was over the moon though and I still remember every second when the team came back from Australia, it was wonderful. I'm hoping and praying that something similar happens again.

-Courtesy ICC

Today's fixture



South Africa vs Sri Lanka

MATCH STARTS AT 2:30 PM

SOUTH AFRICA:	SRI LANKA:
Faf du Plessis (c)	Dimuth Karunaratne (c)
Aiden Markram	Avishka Fernando
Quinton de Kock (wk)	Suranga Lakmal
Hashim Amir	Lasith Malinga
Rossie van der Dussen	Angelo Mathews
David Miller	Jeevan Mendis
Chris Morris	Kusal Mendis (wk)
Andile Phelulukwaya	Kusal Perera (wk)
JP Duminy	Thisara Perera
Dwaine Pretorius	Nuwan Pradeep
Beuran Hendricks	Dhananjaya de Silva
Kagiso Rabada	Milinda Siriwardana
Lungi Ngidi	Lahiru Thirimanne
Imran Tahir	Isuru Udana
Tabraiz Shamsi	Jeffrey Vandersay

ODIs head to head

MATCHES	76
S AFRICA WON	43
SRI LANKA WON	31
TIED	1
NR	1

World Cup head to head

MATCHES	5
INDIA WON	03
SRI LANKA WON	01
TIED	1

Most Runs & Wickets South Africa



O DE KOCK IMRAN TAHIR

238 10

Most Runs & Wickets Sri Lanka



D KARUNARATNE L MALINGA

180 8



5 more polio cases detected in KP

OUR STAFF REPORTER
PESHAWAR

Due to consistent refusal of parents to vaccinate their children, five more children were tested positive for polio virus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday, taking up the total count of such cases in the province to 26 during 2019.

Provincial government is consistently aiming to aware the community of polio virus and risk it poses to the children in the form of paralyses and often death in extreme cases. But unfortunately, there are some parents/caregivers who have doubts about vaccine safety and they refuse to get their children administered polio vaccine propagation of virus and more polio cases.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa EOC Coordinator Kamran Afridi said: "Polio virus will keep on inflicting children unless families and parents understand the fact that they are putting their children at risk of being paralyzed". He said, "Virus targets unimmunised children and all the five polio cases confirmed today were not vaccinated even once during routine immunization campaign".

He appealed to parents/caregivers, elders, religious leaders, influential and society to realise the fact that polio was paralysing the children and their future. "We need to play our part to save our children from paralysis and ensure administering anti-polio vaccine during every campaign."

According to a notification of National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad issued yesterday, "Five new

polio cases have been confirmed from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa out of which two each are from Bannu and Torgher while one case has been reported from North Waziristan."

The details revealed that wild polio virus had been isolated from stool sample of 8-month boy, resident of Sedgai, UC Taldhi Khel in district Bannu and 10-month boy, a resident of Kotka, UC Ihandoo Khel district Bannu. Likewise, virus has been detected in the stool sample of a 4-year-old girl, a resident of Gaeto village, UC Harnail, Torghar, 2-year-old boy, a resident of Shaloon village, UC Harnail Torghar and 11-month girl from Zeraki village, UC Mir Ali 6, from North Waziristan.

APP adds: Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio Babar Bin Atta said in a statement on Thursday that a fake drama was created against polio vaccine in Peshawar. He advised the parents to avoid considering any such propaganda against polio vaccine and vaccinate their children to protect them from polio virus.

He said that due to this fake drama, some parents of far-flung areas were reluctant to vaccinate their children. He urged polio workers and provincial health officials to pay special focus on far-flung areas of KP and asked the province to utilise all resources to eradicate polio.

He said despite significant achievements of the programme, the cunning polio-virus was still surviving and found a way of its survival, therefore special immunisation campaign was planned in all core reservoirs to kill the wild polio virus forever.



LAHORE: Visiting Indian Sikh yatrees stand in front of statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh installed Thursday outside Lahore Fort on the eve of his 108th death anniversary.—Staff photo by Mohsin Raza

Trump hits out at 'unacceptable' India tariffs

MONITORING DESK
WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has called new Indian tariffs on American products "unacceptable" and demanded that they be withdrawn, reported BBC on Thursday.

India imposed retaliatory tariffs on 28 US products earlier in June, after the US announced it was withdrawing India's preferential trade treatment. Trump's criticism came a day after the two sides had downplayed tensions.

Trump is due to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 summit,

which began in Osaka, Japan, on Thursday.

Shortly before leaving for Japan, the US president told reporters on the White House lawn that he would be meeting leaders from different countries, "many of whom have been taking advantage of the United States - but not anymore".

Trump's tweet appeared to contradict a joint statement made by India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and visiting US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday. It said that "even great friends had differences," in what was seen as an attempt to downplay tensions.

US-India bilateral trade was worth \$142 billion in 2018, a sevenfold increase since 2001, accord-

ing to US figures. But \$5.6 billion worth of Indian exports - previously duty-free in the US - will be hit since the country lost preferential treatment under America's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) - a scheme that allows some goods to enter the US duty-free.

Trade tensions have been simmering between the two countries. Last year, India retaliated against US tariff hikes on aluminium and steel by raising its own import duties on a range of goods.

Trump has also threatened to impose sanctions if India purchases oil from Iran and goes ahead with plans to buy Russian S-400 anti-aircraft missiles.

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JUI-sponsored APC: A balance sheet

ASHRAF MUMTAZ
LAHORE

Top leaders of a number of opposition parties at an 8-hour JUI-F-sponsored conference in Islamabad on Wednesday identified important problems facing the country and their solutions. The first 'remedy' that these 'visionaries' from all federating units came up with was to remove Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, hailing from the most backward province - Balochistan.

The first such moot against the PTI government also decided to observe July 25 as black day because the elections held on this day a year ago were allegedly 'massively rigged'. They rejected the national budget for 2019-20, the establishment of National Development Council (of which the COAS has been nominated as a member), as well as the commission that will investigate how debts obtained in the past 10 years were utilised.

Bad state of economy was referred to only in general terms but there was no mention of the free fall of rupee or the measures needed to control it.

(On Wednesday the dollar-rupee parity was 1: 163, something mind-boggling).

It is beyond comprehension why the opposition leaders did not give the economic meltdown due importance at the conference.

Had our leaders been affected by uncontrollable inflation, this issue that has hit hard all spheres of life should have given them sleepless nights, and treasury and opposition leaders should have buried the hatchet for some time and joined heads to find a solution on war footing.

Now the question is who gained/lost what from the conference and whether the opposition parties' 'priorities' for steering the country out of the prevailing situation are right.

One fails to understand the very purpose of the conference. The issues raised at the conference were the ones raised in parliament many a time. The conference has only undermined the status of the bicameral legislature. It has also negated the very purpose of elections.

In elections voters decide who should or shouldn't be in the assemblies. If those rejected by people are to be treated at par with the elected

now they will turn against the PML-N, PPP and their allies for their mischief against a Balochistan leader.

An analysis of the outcome shows that the APC host, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, had to face tremendous embarrassment for a second time in the past three quarters. He is reported to have suggested the legislators to resign from their seats. But both major parties PML-N and the PPP rejected the idea on the plea that it was not in their interest. His idea for protests has also been shelved for the time being as no agitation can be launched when temperatures are so high.

People still remember that defeated in the July 2018 elections, the Maulana had tried to persuade the legislators-elect not to take oath because of the alleged irregularities in the electoral process. His suggestion had been turned down by all parties and they are part of the assemblies. Even Maulana Fazlur Rehman's son is a part of the National Assembly.

Political observers are of the view that the opposition parties are doing no service to themselves by calling Imran Khan a 'selected prime minister'. This is an allegation that means he had been brought to power by the establishment. And when they bracket Imran with the establishment they in fact antagonise the latter. Can a movement both against the PTI and the establishment succeed?

The PML-N leadership, discovered, promoted and protected by Gen Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Gen Ziaul Haq, knows well that a campaign against the establishment is like striking one's head against the wall.

The PTI saved itself from a big embarrassment by keeping Akhtar Mengal part of the coalition. The party gave an assurance to the BNP chief that all his demands would be met.

Had the BNP chief broken ranks with the ruling coalition and participated in the APC, the opposition would have got an opportunity to portray it as a major defeat of the government.

Whatever the opposition's future plans, the ruling coalition would have to take urgent measures to save the economy. It's a fact that the team of imported 'specialists' has failed to control the slide and much more needs to be done. Good or bad response to the amnesty scheme, expiring on June 30, will also play a role in shaping up the future scenario.

COMMENT

It is beyond comprehension why the opposition leaders did not give the economic meltdown due importance at the conference

ones, as was the case at the APC, then there is no need for spending billions of rupees on elections after every few years.

The argument that some leaders who were not part of parliament had added their voice to APC's demands carries no weight.

The decisions taken at the APC would not help advance the democratic process.

Many are of the view any move to oust the Senate chairman will lead to new tensions in the upper house of parliament. The chairman and the ruling party will start making efforts to get the support of as many Senators as possible. The opposition, on the other hand, will do its best for the success of the initiative. These moves and countermoves will add to the state of uncertainty, which will further ruin the businesses and economy. When people of Balochistan are not tolerating a reference against a Supreme Court judge (which has to be decided by the Supreme Judicial Council, a body of five top judges), how will they digest the ouster of their leader as Senate chairman? This means if they are against the PTI for moving a reference against a judge from Balochistan,

Quick Read

391 vehicles impounded, Rs5m tax recovered in 3 days

KARACHI (INP): In line with the directives of Sindh Minister for Excise and Taxation & Narcotics Control and Parliamentary Affairs Mukesh Kumar Chawla, a four-day drive against tax defaulting vehicles was underway across the province.

In first three days of Road Checking Campaign to nab the tax return vehicles, as many 9029 vehicles were checked. In Karachi 2290 vehicles, in Hyderabad 2250 vehicles, in Sukkur 980 vehicles, in Larkana 2150 vehicles, in Mirpurkhas 797 vehicles and in Shaheed Benazirabad 562 vehicles have been checked, while on certain reasons 391 vehicles had been impounded and the documents of 569 vehicles had also been seized.

So far in Karachi Rs 332,906, in Hyderabad Rs 1,204,906, in Sukkur Rs 716,553, in Larkana Rs 1,548,204, in Mirpurkhas Rs 437,735 and in Shaheed Benazirabad Rs 839,922 were collected in term of taxes, fines and withholding tax.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister for Excise and Taxation appreciated the Excise Department teams for hard work and recovery of the taxes during Road Checking Campaign.

Mukesh Kumar Chawla also thanked the owners of the vehicles, who cooperated with Sindh Excise Department during Road Checking Campaign.

PPP believes in freedom of minorities: Wahab

KARACHI (Staff Reporter): Adviser to Chief Minister on Information, Law and Anti-Corruption Barrister Murtaza Wahab Thursday distributed cheques among the needy people on behalf of Pakistan People's Party Minorities Wing in connection with 66th birthday of Mohtarma Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at Peoples Secretariat.

The adviser was chief guest on this occasion. He said that Pakistan People's Party believed in the freedom and welfare of minorities.

Wahab said that PPP is the only political party that is taking concrete steps to protect the rights of all minorities and empowering them socially, politically and economically. He said we should help marginalised people to raise their standards of living.

Wahab said on the occasion that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was a great leader of Asia played historic role in moving the country towards a tremendous path. Wahab said that Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is talking the mission of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed and her mission in the prosperity of every Pakistani.

Reacting to Federal State Minister's statement, Wahab said that the address of Sheharyar Afridi is the result of pistachio adding that if the usage of narcotics is necessary for higher education he said that the PTI leaders are champion of blame game and he said this type of statement is showing their inherent lower mentality level.

Reacting to the address of Sheharyar Afridi that it is necessary to get English Education and use of drugs, the adviser said that the claim of PTI leaders for the end of drugs are fake and nation knows who uses drugs.



KARACHI: Boys collecting sea shells at beach.—Online

Sindh Assembly passes finance bill 2019

Social Media Pakistan 0345-6738217

OUR STAFF REPORTER KARACHI

The Sindh Assembly on Thursday passed "The Sindh Finance Bill, 2019" by rejecting all amendments proposed by the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan amid protest of opposition for imposing 'too many taxes' on the people.

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah who also holds the finance portfolio moved the bill before the house which was opposed by three major opposition parties — Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Grand Democratic Alliance and MQM-P.

Speaking on the bill, Murad said that owing to shortage of funds they had to impose taxes, adding that they would try to ensure that these taxes don't hit the common man. "If the Centre releases our due share, we could reduce these taxes by convening special session of the

assembly," he added. Responding to some lawmakers' assertion that taxes were imposed on urban areas only, the chief minister said that Karachi is integral part of Sindh and would remain the same. "Some members of differentiate tax collection from Karachi and other parts of Sindh but they should understand that Karachi is part of Sindh," said Murad.

Fiery and loudly speech of the chief minister irked the Opposition Leader Firdaus Shamim Naqvi who boycotted the proceedings while other PTI members kept protesting throughout Murad's speech. "Do whatever you want but my tone will be the same, if you talk against my Dharti," the CM added.

Briefing on the bill, the Minister for Excise and Taxation Mukesh Kumar Chawla said that motor vehicle registration tax was increased a bit but the tax

would remain same on transfer of a vehicle. "Rs 1,800 and Rs 3,000 would be collected as tax on registration of 70 CC to 125 CC and 150 CC bikes respectively," he added.

Government imposes tax on bikes

On the other hand, PTI, MQM-P and GDA opposed the bill, saying that this would further increase burden on the people.

Opposition Leader Firdaus Shamim Naqvi said that they never distinguish Karachi from Sindh but the city has different angles than other parts of Sindh.

"The government collects most of tax from Karachi but its infrastructure is destroyed," he added. Naqvi said that the government has increased tax even on online Taxi service which he said performing the responsibility of the government. "At the one hand, a private company is providing people better transportation but on the other hand, the government is not facilitating it either," he said.

Muhammad Hussain of the MQM-P said that the government has imposed a tax even on the motorcyclists, adding that a large number of poor people use bike to commute as the government had failed to provide them public transport.

After the discussion, the bill was presented before the house which passed it amid protest of the opposition. Later, the house was adjourned till Friday at 10am.

If Centre releases our due share, we could reduce these taxes by convening special session of assembly," says CM

Met Office forecasts drizzle in Karachi

NNI KARACHI

The met office has forecast cloudy weather with chances of drizzle in the metropolis on coming Friday and Saturday.

The routine sea-breeze (south-western winds) have returned to the port city providing some relief to the citizens suffering from a spell of hot and humid weather.

Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), in its forecast predicted partly cloudy weather with occasional gusty winds in Karachi on Thursday night. The PMD however, forecast cloudy and windy weather with chances of drizzle late night and early morning on Friday and Saturday.

Karachi's various localities had also received morning drizzling in the past week.

as 35 degrees Celsius in Karachi, while humidity recorded at 57 percent today.

According to the weather department, a seasonal low lies over north-east Balochistan and a westerly wave is likely to approach upper parts of the country tonight.

Mainly hot and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country on Friday, while very hot in plain areas of Sindh and Punjab.

However, dust-thunderstorm/rain with gusty winds is expected at isolated places in Malakand Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Sukkur, Kalat and Zhob divisions, Islamabad, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir.

Yesterday's highest maximum temperatures were recorded 46°C Celsius in Sibbi and Jacobabad, while 45°C Celsius in Sukkur, D.G.Khan, Larkana, Rohri and Dadu. NNI



KARACHI: Residents of Azam Basti hold a protest against kidnapping of Hindu woman Seri Davi, outside press club.—Online

Karachi

Quick Read

Woman dies from 'wrong injection'

KARACHI (INP): Another incident of doctors' negligence reported as a woman died on Thursday after allegedly being administered 'wrong injection' at a private hospital in Karachi.

According to details, the 40-year-old Saima was feeling pain in her stomach. In a bid to get treatment, her relatives took her to the Hospital. After examining the patient, the doctor allegedly administered 'wrong injection' which took her life.

The family of Saima demanded the police to take action against the hospital management.

Uniformed men in police van commit house heist

KARACHI (INP): Men in police uniforms deprived a family from cash and other valuables in North Nazimabad locality of Karachi on Thursday. A citizen has informed the police authorities in a written application about the heist incident and requested its inquiry.

According to the complaint, a police mobile, carrying two men in police uniforms and others in plain cloths, along with riders on two motorbikes, entered in the house and checked national identity cards of the family members. They also thoroughly searched the house, the complaint said.

The men misbehaved with the women of the house and children, according to the application. The accused during the search broke locks of a bag, robbed 1.25 Lac rupees cash and fled from the house, the citizen complained.

The incident took place at Block-5 of North Nazimabad area at night two days ago, according to details.

Governor, DG Rangers discuss law, order situation

KARACHI (Online): The Director General of Sindh Rangers Major General Umar Ahmed Bukhari called on the Sindh Governor Imran Ismail at the Governor House in Karachi. During the meeting, overall law and order situation of the province was discussed besides other matters of importance.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor lauded the role of law enforcement agencies including army, police and rangers for the restoration of peace in the province especially Karachi. The Governor and DG Rangers also expressed firm resolve to eliminate every type of crime from the province.



KARACHI: Children enjoying jumping jack setup by a roadside vendor.--APP

CM for fair distribution of water to tail-end areas

“I will not allow anybody to disturb water distribution system”

OUR STAFF REPORTER
KARACHI

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday directed irrigation department to ensure equitable distribution of water in the command areas of all the three barrages and 14 canals, however adequate water must be released to the command area of Kotri Barrage where early crops of kharif were planted.

He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting regarding equitable distribution of water particularly to the tail-end areas of Badin, Sujawal and Thatta.

The meeting was attended by Minister Irrigation Syed Nasir Shah, Minister Agriculture Ismail Rahu, Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Rehana Leghari, Special Assistant to CM on Irrigation Ashfaq Memon, Special Secretary Irrigation Aslam Ansari, elected representatives (MPAs) of Badin, Sujawal and Thatta.

The chief minister said that during April and May substantial discharge of 12000 cusecs was provided to Rohri and Nara Canal to facilitate cotton sowing.

He added that cotton sowing

target in the both the circles has been achieved to the extent of 90 percent. Murad said that he had decided that adequate water should be provided to Kotri Barrage with priority to Akram Wah and Fuleli Canal to encourage sowing of dry crops and this has been done properly.

Now, early sowing of Kharif crops have been started downstream Kotri, therefore they

12,000 cusecs water provided to Rohri, Nara Canal

must be released adequate water.

He said that adequate water would reach to the tail-end areas of Badin, Sujawal and Thatta when all the illegal lifting of water or turning the direction of water courses would continue. "I will not allow anybody to disturb water distribution system," he said and directed Irrigation

Minister Syed Nasir Shah to launch an operation against water theft/illegal water lifting through different means. He directed Commissioner Hyderabad and DIG Hyderabad to provide police force and participate in the cooperation being launched by Irrigation department.

The chief minister also urged Irrigation department to provide adequate supply of water to the right bank canals off taking from Sukkur Barrage such as Rice, NW and Dadu Canals.

Special Secretary Irrigation Aslam Ansari told the meeting that over all there was around 38 percent water shortage. At this the chief minister directed him to ensure equitable supply of water all over Sindh and special attention must be given to the tail-enders.

Minister Irrigation Syed Nasir Shah said that he would personally monitor operation against water theft and would acquire the services of Pakistan Rangers, when required.

He assured the elected representatives of Badin, Sujawal and Thatta that water would be provided to their districts equitably.

Govt utilising all resources for masses: Ismail

APP
KARACHI

Sindh Governor Imran Ismail Thursday said that the government was utilising all available resources for provision of clean drinking water, health facilities, quality education and other basic necessities of life.

Addressing on the occasion of inaugurating a plantation campaign by planting a sapling at Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) Laboratories Complex here, Imran Ismail said that Prime Minister's vision for Clean and Green Pakistan was being pursued in letter and spirit, according to a statement. The governor said that PCSIR's offer for installation of Ultra-Filtration Plant in the city was welcomed.

PCSIR Director General Muhammad Alem Ahmed also briefed Governor Sindh Imran Ismail about functioning of PCSIR during his visit.

Muhammad Alem Ahmed informed the Governor about 7 research centers including Applied Chemistry Research Center, Center for Environmental Studies, Applied Physics, Computer and Instrumentation Center, Pharmaceutical Research Center and others. He said that around 6000 different industries were being provided facilities of research and development under these research centers.

He apprised the Governor that mapping has been done for testing the water in Tharparkar. A treatment plant was installed in Chachro area under project of Pakistan Science Foundation from which 1500 gallons of drinking water was being supplied on daily basis to over 4000 people.

Commissioner vows to ensure SC directives on ZOT

OUR STAFF REPORTER
KARACHI

Karachi Commissioner Iftikhar Shallawani presided over a meeting to review the progress on Supreme Court directives about devising an action plan pertaining to Zulfiquarabad Oil Terminal (ZOT) at his office here on Thursday.

The representatives of KPT, KMC, OCAC, district administration and others also attended the meeting.

The commissioner stressed upon the heads of agencies that despite of passing six months and holding five meetings over

the issue, no substantial progress was made in the matter.

He added that before submitting a final report to SC, all agencies should speed up their efforts and show results to clear the area (Shirin Jinnah Colony). He advised that all tankers should be moved to ZOT area which was already set up for the purpose to utilise it immediately for proper easiness of traffic flow in the area.

He further directed the KMC to issue legal notices and adopt a legal procedure within a week to vacate the oil tanker area speedily and take steps to provide infrastructural facilities there [ZOT]. He also asked KPT to assist the local police to

resolve the issue on priority basis. OCAS mentioned that they had paid fixed payment but still no progress observed in the matter.

The PSO representative said that they were filling the oil regularly but all others should also be bound to follow the procedure. At present 5,800 tankers were registered with two officers who monitored supply of oil regularly.

The commissioner assured that their issues would be resolved. The district administration would provide all possible assistance to them. Further, he directed the Malir DC to keep vigil over the issue and to submit a detailed report to him.

مدیر اعلیٰ روز بروز جدید نظامی
مدیر: خالد پرواز دھاشی

محمد مرسی "شہید مصر"
روز بروز کی ڈیڑھ بجے والی کانفرنس میں

ملاؤ کوشش
48 ماہوں میں 5 ماہوں سے

سہ ماہی
پانی کا شدید بحران

حضرت امیر شکر آباد نے ناز شاہ صاحبہ سے ملاقات کی

سعودی خواتین مردوں کے شانہ بشانہ ساتھ ساتھ سرانجام دیں گی

نہار سے بعد نوجوان خواتین اجلاس
ہفت روزہ کی نوجوان خواتین کی تنظیم

سوشل میڈیا پر 8500 سے زائد لوگوں نے ریپورٹ
مدیر اعلیٰ روز بروز کی کاروائی میں

ٹورسٹوں کو جان بچانے کی ضرورت ہے
انجمن کی دوری شاہی

WORLD

Quick Read

Turkish, US defence officials discuss Syria in Brussels



ANKARA (AA): Turkey's defense minister and the US special envoy for Syria discussed the situation in the northern Syrian town of Manbij and the east of Euphrates River on Thursday, according to a statement from Turkish Defense Ministry. During their meeting at the NATO headquarters in Brussels, Hulusi Akar and James Jeffrey also discussed latest developments in Syria, the statement said. Akar told Jeffrey that Turkey expected the US to keep its promises on Manbij.

Last year, Ankara and Washington reached a deal stipulating the withdrawal of YPG/PKK terrorists from the town for the stability of the region, located in the northern part of Syria's Aleppo province. Akar reiterated Turkey's views for the formation of a safe zone in the east of the Euphrates River, the statement added.

Turkey previously underlined that a safe zone in this area would need to be free of YPG/PKK terrorists and that the region's safety must be secured by Turkey. The YPG is the Syrian offshoot of the PKK, a terrorist group recognized by Turkey, the US and the EU which in its 30-year terror campaign has taken some 40,000 lives, including women and children.

'Erdogan-Trump meeting could bring progress on S-400'



BRUSSELS (AA): A meeting of the Turkish and US presidents during the G20 summit in Japan could help resolve the issue of Turkey's purchase of Russian S-400 defense systems, said NATO's chief on Thursday.

When Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and US President Donald Trump meet in Japan this week, "hopefully that can bring some progress," Jens Stoltenberg told reporters following a two-day NATO defense ministers' meeting in Brussels.

Welcoming dialogue between Turkey and the US on the "difficult" S-400 issue, Stoltenberg said it was not part of the NATO meeting but was discussed on its sidelines.

Tensions between the US and Turkey have escalated in recent months over the Russian S-400 air defense systems purchase.



OSAKA: Theresa May and her husband Philip arrive at Kansai airport for the G20 Osaka summit.

Venezuela government says it thwarted 'coup' plot

Social Media Pakistan 0345-6738217

AGENCIES
CARACAS

Maduro warns that he would be ruthless in a revolutionary counter-offensive against an attempted fascist coup

Venezuela's socialist government said Wednesday it had derailed a coup bid, claiming the United States, Colombia and Chile colluded in a military plot to assassinate President Nicolas Maduro and install a general and former defense minister in his place. Maduro warned that he would be "ruthless in a revolutionary counter-offensive against an attempted fascist coup -- ruthless!"

In a speech broadcast nationwide on radio and television, an agitated Maduro denounced a "fascist attempt to assassinate me" -- and lashed out at Colombian President Ivan Duque saying his "complicity" was "evident." Venezuelan Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez earlier said the alleged coup involved active duty and retired military officers, and was to have been executed between Sunday and Monday this past weekend.

"We were in all the meetings to plan the coup d'Etat. We were in all the conferences," he said, suggesting informers had infiltrated the alleged plotters -- at least six of whom had been detained.

In his televised speech, Rodriguez also accused opposition leader Juan Guaido of planning "a bloodbath." Guaido for his part dismissed the coup claims as fiction, saying the media had "lost count" of how many times the same accusations had been repeated.

Recognized by the United States and more than 50 countries as the country's interim president, Guaido said he would



continue to call on the armed forces to abandon Maduro.

Rodriguez accused Colombia's Duque of being closely involved in the alleged plot, and implicated Chilean President Sebastian Pinera and US National Security Advisor John Bolton.

Without referring directly to the charge, Colombia's foreign minister, Carlos Holmes Trujillo, said his country would "continue to act through political and diplomatic means" in Venezuela.

Rodriguez presented testimony from one of the detainees -- Lieutenant Carlos Saavedra, identified as the nephew of retired General Ramon Saavedra, who was arrested Wednesday by Venezuelan intelligence agents. According to Rodriguez, surveillance of the plotters and Saavedra's recorded "confession" revealed that the plan envisaged the take-

over of three military bases, including La Carlota air base in Caracas.

The plotters hoped to spring Raul Baduel -- a former defense minister under late president Hugo Chavez -- from jail to proclaim him president, Rodriguez said.

Maduro demoted Baduel last year as part of a purge of senior military officers, which also included another general, Antonio Rivero, allegedly another leader of the coup bid. The head of the National Assembly, Guaido proclaimed himself Venezuela's interim president in January on the grounds Maduro's 2018 re-election was illegitimate.

Venezuelan authorities recently said that 17 people had been charged with attempting a coup on April 30, during Guaido's failed attempt to inspire a military uprising. Only some 30 military personnel joined Guaido, and the revolt

fizzled after two days of deadly clashes. Several people close to Guaido have since been detained, though not the lawmaker himself.

However, in the wake of Rodriguez's accusations, he told reporters he had "frustrated" an attempt to kidnap several members of his entourage on a Caracas highway. The kidnapers were armed and "dressed as civilians" he said.

Rodriguez also accused Maduro's former intelligence chief Christopher Figuera -- who has defected to the United States -- of seeking "hundreds of thousands of dollars" for supporting the abortive uprising. Figuera "turned out to be a mercenary," Rodriguez said.

In a series of shock claims made to US media, Figuera said members of Maduro's family and his government were engaged in money laundering and corruption, and alleged Hezbollah cells were allowed to operate in Venezuela and raise funds.

On Wednesday Ivan Simonovis, a former Venezuelan national police chief who fled house arrest in Caracas where he was being held on murder charges, was in Washington to talk to US lawmakers about "criminal activities" of the Maduro government. He backed up many of Figuera's allegations.

Washington has imposed crippling sanctions on Maduro's government, holding the president responsible for the collapse of the Latin American oil giant, which has seen millions flee amid widespread shortages of basic goods and medicines.

European heatwave sets new June temperature records



AGENCIES
FRANCE

A heatwave affecting much of Europe is expected to intensify further with countries including France, Spain and Switzerland -- expecting temperatures above 40C (104F) later on Thursday.

On Wednesday, Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic recorded their highest temperatures for June. Meteorologists say hot air drawn in from northern Africa is responsible. The heat is expected to rise further in many countries over

the next three days, meteorologists warn. By early afternoon, temperatures had reached 37C in Turin in Italy, 39C in the Spanish city of Zaragoza, and 39C in Avignon in southern France. In Spain, 11 provinces in the east and centre of the country are set to experience temperatures above 40C. In parts of the north-east, they may reach 45C on Friday.

Hundreds of firefighters are battling wildfires in Catalonia, described by the regional government as some of the worst in 20 years. At least 4,000 hectares (10,000 acres) are affect-

Meteorologists say hot air drawn in from northern Africa is responsible

ed, but officials said that in the intense heat the area could increase to 20,000ha. Thirty people have been evacuated and five roads have been closed.

Temperatures are expected to top 40C in Italy too, particularly in central and northern regions. Several cities, including Rome, have issued the highest heat warnings.

On Thursday morning the body of a 72-year-old homeless Romanian man was found near Milan's central train station. Officials say the heat may have been a factor in his death.

Philip Trackfield, a British

tourist in Rome, told the BBC: "Last night at the Spanish steps it was 41C. It's exhausting when you're trying to do all the sights." Meanwhile the whole of France -- where a heatwave in 2003 was blamed for 15,000 deaths -- is now on orange alert, the second-highest warning level. In Paris, fountains and sprinklers connected to hydrants have been set up. Some schools have delayed important exams and even closed. In Toulouse where temperatures are expected to reach 41C on Thursday, charities have been handing out water to homeless people.

Trump-XI showdown to dominate G20 summit

US tightened restrictions on Chinese telecom champion Huawei and four other Chinese tech firms by putting them on a trade "blacklist".

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Leaders from the Group of 20 nations (G20) will meet in Osaka from Friday in what is likely to be its most important summit since the global financial crisis.

When the G20 met in Washington one month after the Lehman Brothers crash in 2008, they were focused on a mammoth task: how to piece the world economy back together and avoid a future crisis.

A decade later the G20 nations face another huge challenge in resolving a US-China trade war that has rattled businesses around the world, and cast a shadow over the global economy. That's why the meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday will be so closely watched.

They last met seven months ago at another G20 summit in Buenos Aires. Over grilled sirloin and caramel rolled pancakes, the pair agreed on a 90 day truce to their trade war. Now, reports are emerging that another trade truce could be struck in Osaka. While that would provide markets with some relief, it won't mean the trade war is over.

In the months leading up to the G20 meeting in Japan, the trade clash between the world's two largest economies has escalated. The US tightened restrictions on Chinese telecom champion Huawei and four other Chinese



tech firms by putting them on a trade "blacklist".

Beijing responded angrily with threats of its own trade ban, and in recent weeks has increased scrutiny on American firms operating in China, including FedEx.

If they don't strike a trade deal, Mr Trump has threatened to impose tariffs on \$300bn (£236.5bn) of Chinese goods - that would mean pretty much every-

thing that China sells to the US would be subject to tariffs.

But while many US businesses approve of Mr Trump's headline stance on China, more tariffs is the last thing they want. Companies have urged Mr Trump to end the trade war, warning of higher prices and risks to their future.

Both leaders are under pressure at home to show they are walking away with the best deal - so they won't want

to give too much ground.

But with China's economy slowing, and Mr Trump heading into an election year, neither side can afford to let the trade war go on for much longer. If a truce is announced, there will be relief from G20 nations too.

The trade war is having an impact on global growth, with the International Monetary Fund and others warning that escalating US-China trade tensions are

among the biggest threats to the world economy. Rising tensions between the US and Iran is another issue likely to be on the minds of many at the G20 summit. This week the US announced fresh sanctions on Iran and the country's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei - moves Mr Trump said were a response to recent "aggressive behaviour" by the country.

Their spat has led to oil prices shooting up over fears of a conflict between Washington and Tehran. Expect the US president to try to shore up support from allies for his sanctions on Iran - and expect Beijing to back Iran, albeit subtly. Environmental issues are likely to get a fair amount of attention at the G20 meeting. As the summit chair, Japan is hoping to get an agreement from G20 members on the reduction of plastic waste in the ocean.

The UN says that some 300 million tonnes of plastic waste is produced every year, and around 8 million tonnes ends up in our oceans, killing marine life and choking up our oceans with toxic chemicals. By 2050, the UN says, if current trends continue our oceans could contain more plastic than fish.

So expect more efforts by Japan to get firm commitments from countries to ban single use plastic, and reduce plastic waste to zero in the oceans. But also expect some resistance from the US, over concerns of what this could do to its petrochemicals and plastics industries.

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NEW YORK

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AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Boeing hits by new 737 max problems

Social Media Pakistan 0345-6738217

US regulators have uncovered a possible new flaw in Boeing's troubled 737 Max aircraft that is likely to push back test flights. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said it had identified the "potential risk" during simulator tests, but did not reveal details.
Boeing's top-selling aircraft was grounded in March after two crashes. The company is upgrading the aircraft's flight control system, which is the focus of crash investigators. The control system can help prevent a plane from stalling.
In a tweet, the FAA said: "On the most recent issue, the FAA's process is designed to discover and highlight potential risks. The FAA recently found a potential risk that Boeing must mitigate."
A source familiar with the situation told the BBC: "During simulator testing last week at Boeing, FAA test pilots discovered an issue that affected their ability to quickly and easily follow the required recovery procedures for runaway stabiliser trim (ie, to stop stabilisers on the aircraft's tail moving uncontrollably). The issue was traced to how data is being processed by the flight computer." Last month, the FAA indicated that approval of Boeing's changes to the 737 Max could come in late June. That would have allowed test flights in early July.
There were initial hopes among airlines that the 737 Max would be back in the air during the summer, but that timetable was pushed back to late this year even before the latest news. Reuters, which first reported the new issue, said during an FAA pilot simulation in which the software was activated, it had taken longer than expected to recover the aircraft.
Other sources said the problem was linked to the aircraft's computing power and whether the processor possessed enough capacity to keep up. Boeing said "we are working closely with the FAA to safely return the Max to service" and that it believed a software fix would address the problem.
If regulators are unsatisfied with the software fix, the microprocessor unit will have to be replaced and the grounding may stretch on for months longer than previously thought.
The loss of Ethiopian flight ET302 in March was the second fatal accident involving a 737 Max in the space of five months. A near identical aircraft, owned by the Indonesian carrier Lion Air, went down in the sea off Jakarta in October 2018. The news that the FAA has found a "potential risk" in software developed for the 737 Max should come as no surprise.
Firstly, fixing the plane is clearly not a simple process. Boeing has been working on the issue for the past eight months - and if a quick and easy solution had been available, perhaps the second of the two accidents could have been avoided.
Meanwhile, the regulator itself is under intense pressure and its credibility is at stake. Its own actions certifying the aircraft and its relationship with Boeing have come under fierce scrutiny. In deciding whether the aircraft is safe to fly again, it needs to be absolutely rigorous - and needs to be seen to be rigorous as well.
There's a great deal at stake here. The longer the 737 Max remains grounded, the more the costs will mount up, for Boeing and for the airlines which were counting on using the new plane. But 346 lives have already been lost, and no-one - not Boeing, not the airlines and not the regulator - can afford another accident.
Preliminary reports into both accidents have suggested they were triggered by a flight control system deploying at the wrong time, due to a faulty sensor. The FAA has been criticised for its lack of oversight and the certification process that cleared the Max to fly.

Several injured in bomb attacks in Tunisia

XinHua
TUNIS

A bomb attack occurred Thursday at the Rue Charles de Gaulle, near the French embassy in the capital Tunis, Tunisia's Interior Ministry said in a statement.
A suicide bomber blew himself up, injuring two police officers and three civilians.
"The victims were transported to the hospital to receive medical care," said the statement. Ten minutes after the first attack, a second explosion hit the car park of the headquarters of the El Ghorjani Counter-Terrorism Directorate in Tunis.
According to the ministry, a young man attempted to commit a suicide bombing inside El Ghorjani but was arrested by the police officers. He then blew himself up in the car park. "Four police officers were injured in this bomb attack," said the ministry statement.
On Thursday morning, a "terrorist group" attacked the broadcasting station at Mount Orba in Gafsa, Mosaïque FM, a private radio station, quoted Mohamed Zekri, the information officer at the ministry of defense, as saying.
According to the source, the "terrorists" have opened fire at the station, which is protected by military units, and then fled.
"This attack did not cause any material damage or injury," said the source, adding that security and military units are conducting sweep operations in search of "terrorists".

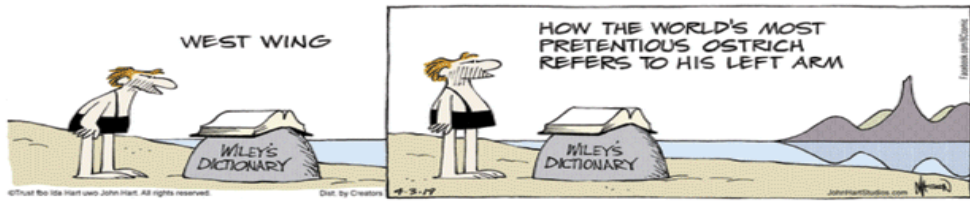
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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR 500kV TRANSMISSION LINE FROM SUKI KINARI - MAIRA SWITCHING STATION LOT-1 & LOT-2 Environmental Monitoring and Laboratory Testing

National Engineering Services Pakistan (Pvt.) Limited (NESPAK) requires the services of environmental monitoring, sampling and testing of ambient air, background noise levels, drinking water and surface water for the subject Transmission Line (T/L) Project. T/L has been divided into two (02) Lots i.e. LOT-1 and LOT-2. Tentatively for LOT-1 eleven (11) locations have been identified for baseline ambient air quality and background noise levels monitoring, five (05) locations have been selected for drinking water and twelve (12) locations for surface water sampling and testing. For LOT-2 nine (09) locations have been identified for baseline ambient air quality and background noise levels monitoring, seven (07) locations have been selected for drinking water and eight (08) locations for surface water sampling and testing.
LOT-1 Locations for sampling/monitoring are within the proximity of Tehsil Balakot, Mansehra District and Tehsil Abbottabad, Abbottabad District in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. While LOT-2 Locations for sampling/monitoring are within the proximity of Tehsil Abbottabad, Abbottabad District in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and Tehsil Kotli Sattayan, Murree & Kaltura, Rawalpindi District in the Punjab province. The exact location of the points for both LOT-1 and LOT-2 shall be finalized after the award of the work. Details of parameters and Terms of Reference (TORs) for environmental monitoring, sampling and testing can be downloaded separately for each LOT from NESPAK (www.nespak.com.pk) and PPPRA (www.ppra.org.pk) website.
Laboratories approved from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) possessing capacity to execute work as per latest National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) and Punjab Environmental Quality Standards (PEQS), 2016 are invited to submit their sealed quotations separately for each LOT along with EPA approval certificates for the above mentioned services as address given below on or before July 12, 2019 (Friday) up to 14:30 hours. Bids would be opened on the same day at 15:00 hours in the presence of those bidders who wish to be present. Selected Laboratory must be able to mobilize to site within seven (07) days after award of work and submit report within fifteen (15) days after mobilization. The envelope of bids shall bear the Name of the Project along with the name of LOT, and clearly write "TO BE OPENED BY BID OPENING COMMITTEE ONLY". The bidders are required to submit 2% earnest money in the form of bank draft in favor of NESPAK along with bids. Bids without earnest money will be rejected.
The cost for collection, preservation and transportation of samples to the laboratory and other logistics such as transport, accommodation, security at site, report etc. is to be borne by the Laboratory. Bidding Cost must be inclusive of all applicable taxes. The bidders shall also take care of security arrangements (if required) for themselves during field work. NESPAK reserves the right to accept or reject any/all offers according to provision of PPPRA Rules.
Note: Submission of the bids for LOT-1 and LOT-2 should be in separate sealed envelopes and LOT number should be mentioned clearly in bold on each envelope.
Muhammad Shariq Ahmed, Principal Engineer
ERGES Section, GT&E Division, NESPAK House, 1-C, Block-N, Model Town Extension, Lahore, Pakistan - 54700
Ph: 0992-42-99090423, 396, Fax: 0992-42-99231936, 50
E-mail: shariqahmed@hotmail.com
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ARIES
MAR 21 - APR 19

It's important to be more sensitive toward other people's feelings today, Aries. You may feel more vulnerable than usual. You should do what you can to keep from becoming a victim. Realize that harsh words coming your way now could be a reflection of the harsh words that you've dished out in the past. Ultimately, the events of today could be a good learning experience.



TAURUS
APR 20 - MAY 20

You're likely to be very aware of things going on around you today, and you may internalize the opinions of others, Taurus. Be careful about opening yourself up so much that you get hurt by someone's offhand, unflattering comment. You will find the most comfort in tangible and stable things. Enjoy the material pleasures in life.



GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUN 20

You may be working on a large project that draws on your creative energy, Gemini. In terms of long-term goals and dreams, this sort of project is right up your alley. Today you might hit a snag or some sort of emotional block that could make it hard for you to continue. Slow down and take a break. Don't get discouraged.



CANCER
JUN 21 - JUL 19

Don't be surprised if someone rubs you the wrong way today, Cancer. It's likely that pressure has been building in other people's minds for quite some time. They might have been afraid to share their feelings before simply because they were too intimidated to say anything that might cross you. The molten lava has finally gotten hot enough and the volcano is about to erupt.



LEO
JUL 23 - AUG 22

It's possible that you've relied on your imagination to pull you out of tough situations lately, Leo. When the real world begins to get you down, you can always turn to your fantasy world. On this day, there's a stubborn blast of realism that might bring you down and keep you there. Unless you've prepared for this grounding force, you could have trouble lifting off again.



VIRGO
AUG 23 - SEP 22

Relax and settle down today, Virgo. Take some time to enjoy where you are and the people around you. There's a promise that you need to fulfill, and you should think about how you can honor it now. Do something for others instead of keeping the focus on you and your goals and ambitions. The more you invest in others now, the bigger the payoff you will receive from these actions in the future.



LIBRA
SEP 23 - OCT 22

You may be faced with a difficult choice today in a particular area of your life, Libra. It's likely the dilemma stems from a desire to follow your creative, imaginative spirit, while another part of you feels held down to things more practical and grounded. See what you can do to combine the two forces and fuse them into one powerful manifestation.



SCORPIO
OCT 23 - NOV 21

Today a bubble of confusion clouds your reality, making it difficult to decide what to do next, Scorpio. Be careful that you don't tie your stomach in knots from the tension created by your mental confusion. Problems with indigestion are likely now because of your worries over what your next step should be. Relax and go with the flow. Things will work out fine.



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 22 - DEC 21

Try not to be too swayed by your emotions today, Sagittarius. You might get in trouble if you get carried away with a drama that doesn't pertain to you in any way. Your connection to other people's feelings could draw you into a maelstrom. Keep in mind that your imagination is your life raft. Do what you can to distance yourself from the emotional trauma that surrounds you.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22 - JAN 19

Don't doubt yourself today, Capricorn. You should be feeling quite strong, although inadequacy could sneak into the picture. This could be because you're having trouble understanding issues that are rather cloudy. Just because things aren't clear doesn't mean they aren't working out in your favor. As long as you remain confident that things will come out fine, they will.



AQUARIUS
JAN 20 - FEB 18

You're at a creative high point right now, so make sure to nurture this side of your being, Aquarius. It could be that you're in danger of running into an obstacle. Try not to get discouraged. Instead, it may be best for you to reflect on what you've done in the past. Enjoy emotional stability today instead of letting your emotions jump around from one thing to the next.



PISCES
FEB 19 - MAR 20

You're apt to be in a good mood today, Pisces. The roller coaster of feelings you've been on is finally coming to a stable platform. Get off the ride and enjoy the comfort of solid ground. Take a walk and treat yourself to something you enjoy - ice cream or a new book. Deal with practical issues instead of getting lost in your imagination. You will sleep more soundly tonight if you do.

Crossword

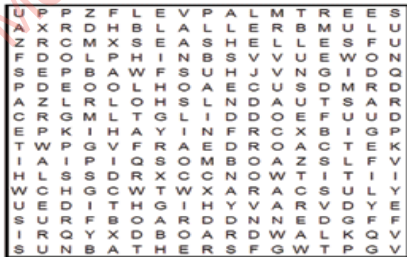
675



- ACROSS**
8. Monetary unit in Yugoslavia (4)
 9. A Eurasian goat-like antelope (5)
 10. Seaweed (4)
 11. Stroller (6)
 12. Prescribes (8)
 13. Lames (8)
 15. Move up and down repeatedly (6)
 17. Rendered senseless (7)
 19. Colliding (7)
 22. Practical (6)
 24. Decoration (8)
 26. Parries (8)
 28. Says "Hello" (6)
 30. Not up (4)
 31. Send out (5)
 32. Like a snake-like fish (4)
- DOWN**
1. Traditional Indian music (4)
 2. A type rotation of a ball (8)
 3. Stellar (6)
 4. A dialect of German (7)
 5. Wolverine (8)
 6. An idyllic place (6)
 7. Shivering fit (4)
 14. Schedule of fees (5)
 16. Holy scripture (5)
 18. The best of various styles and ideas (8)
 20. Coddled (8)
 21. Originate (in) (7)
 23. A serious crime (6)
 25. Harassed (6)
 27. God of love (Greek mythology) (4)
 29. Thin slab of linoleum (4)

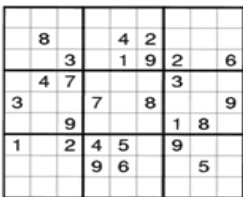
Word Search

AT THE BEACH



- BEACH BALL
BOARDWALK
BOOGIE BOARD
CORAL REEF
DOLPHIN
- HIGH TIDE
JELLY FISH
LIFEGUARD
LIGHTHOUSE
PALM TREES
- PELICAN
SAND CASTLE
SAND DUNES
SEA SHELL
STARFISH
- SUNBATHERS
SURFBORD
SWIMSUIT
UMBRELLA
WHITE CAPS

Sudoku



Chess

295



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHESS

- 1 Qh8+ Kc7, 2 Rxd7+ Kd8, 3 Rxd7+ Kxd7, 4 Qxe8+ Kxe8, 5 Bxf7+ Kxf7, 6 Rxb4 wins.

Quick Read

NASA invites US students to name Mars 2020 rover



LOS ANGELES (Xinhua): The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has selected two partner organizations to run a nationwide contest giving U.S. students a chance to make history by naming the Mars 2020 rover, according to a release of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) on Tuesday.

Battelle Education, of Columbus, Ohio, and Future Engineers, of Burbank, California, will collaborate with NASA on the Mars 2020 "Name the Rover" contest, which will be open to students from kindergarten to 12th grade in the fall of 2019.

The student contest is part of NASA's efforts to engage the public in its missions to the Moon and Mars.

"We're very excited about this exceptional partnership," said Mars 2020 program executive George Tahu in NASA's Planetary Science Division. "Contests like this present excellent opportunities to invite young students and educators to be a part of this journey to understand the possibilities for life beyond Earth and to advance new capabilities in exploration technology."

The currently unnamed rover is a robotic scientist weighing more than 1,000 kg, according to the JPL. It will search for signs of past microbial life, characterize the planet's climate and geology, collect samples for future return to Earth and pave the way for human exploration of the Red Planet.

The spacecraft is targeted for a July 2020 launch and is expected to touch down on Mars in February 2021.



HONG KONG: Demonstrators wave their smartphones during a rally ahead of the G20 summit.—GN

Russia denies role in Israeli GPS jamming

BBC MOSCOW

Russia has denied Israeli suggestions that it is behind disruption of GPS signals at Israel's Ben Gurion airport.

Since early June, GPS signals at the airport have been unreliable for pilots and planes using the location.

The missing navigational data has had a "significant impact" on airport operations, said Israel's Airports Authority.

Russia's ambassador to Israel said the accusation was "fake news" and could not be "taken seriously".

Signal source The disrupted GPS signals had not caused any accidents or safety incidents, said the Airports Authority. It added that pilots could use the alternative Instrument Landing System when approaching and landing at the airport.

"It is a safe and professional method that is used every day in airports around the world," it said.

The GPS problem only affects aircraft in the sky over the airport, not ground-based sensors, the authority added.

It said it was continuing to investigate the source of the disruption.

The Israeli Airline Pilots Association said

the GPS problems were a "spoofing" attack that produces incorrect location data. This can mean receivers on planes sometimes reporting their location as miles away from

planes at the Hmeimim airbase in Syria, it said. The military base is about 350km (217 miles) north of Ben Gurion.

Russia spoofed GPS signals when Vladimir

airbases and a naval base in the country.

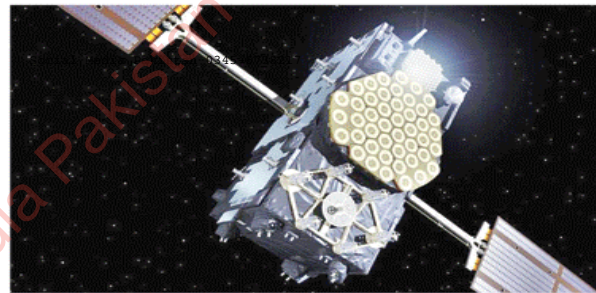
In 2015, when Syria was struggling against the rebels, Russia launched an air campaign, which turned the tide of the war in the Syrian regime's favour. Russia has maintained its air offensive since then, helping government forces to rout the rebels and pin them down to the final province under their control, Idlib, in the north-west.

However, planes from the US-led coalition against the Islamic State group, and also periodically those from Israel, also operate in Syrian airspace. All sides have to take special measures to avoid mid-air incidents, which could have serious consequences.

Despite the denials, Russia is known to have a long history of involvement in GPS spoofing and jamming, suggested a report released in April by the US Center for Advanced Defense.

It documented more than 10,000 separate incidents of GPS disruption and said Russia was "pioneering" the technique to "protect and promote its strategic interests".

Some of the disruption helped to keep drones away from Russian airports, said the report, but it was also used to project a bubble around senior government figures when they visited sensitive locations.



where they actually are. BBC Monitoring said Israeli IDF radio had quoted "high-ranking" sources as blaming Russia for the continuing disruption.

The disruption was linked to "electronic warfare" systems Russia used to protect its

Putin visited Crimea's Kerch Strait Bridge

Why is Russia in Syria?

Russia is one of Syria's closest allies, with ties between the two countries stretching back decades.

Syria is strategically vital to Russia. It has

Huawei ships over 150,000 5G base stations worldwide

GUANGZHOU Xinhua

Huawei has received 50 contracts on 5G commercial services from 30 countries and regions, and shipped more than 150,000 5G base stations worldwide, the company announced. As of Saturday, Huawei has received 28 contracts from Europe, 11 from the Middle East, six from the Asia-Pacific Region, four from the Americas, and one from Africa, said Hu Houkun, deputy chairman of the company's board of directors

during a press conference held Wednesday.

Hu added that the shipment of the company's 5G base stations is expected to grow to about 500,000 by the end of this year.

As to whether the supply of 5G products will be affected by external sanctions, Hu said that alternative solutions have been found for all the affected components, and the performance of the alternative solutions are the same as or even better than the original components. At present, Huawei's 5G technology solutions

are completely unaffected by the sanctions. In terms of both signed contracts or those in the future, the company can fully guarantee a stable supply to its customers, Hu said. Earlier this month, China granted 5G licenses for commercial use, marking the beginning of a new era in the country's telecommunication industry. Currently, Huawei has completed 5G trials in more than 40 cities with China's major operators. China's 5G market is expected to start small-scale commercial use this year and large-scale commercial use next year.



Huawei has completed 5G trials in more than 40 cities with China's major operators

Plasma diagnostic system improved to ensure safe nuclear fusion



XINHUA BEIJING

Chinese researchers have improved a diagnostics system for nuclear fusion devices, paving the way for producing controlled thermonuclear fusion power in the future.

At the temperatures required for fusion reactions, the matter can only exist in the plasma state, free negative electrons and positive nuclei. Some fusion reactors use a magnetic field to con-

fine hot plasma for fusion actions to take place.

Plasma is hard to control and contain and is subject to sudden termination, usually with very little warning. When a disruption occurs, the considerable thermal and magnetic energy contained within the plasma is suddenly released very quickly, which can lead to damages.

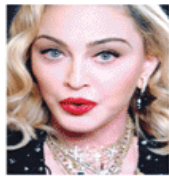
Scattering of laser light from the electrons in plasma is known as Thomson scattering. It has been used as an

established method to measure the electron temperature and density in fusion devices, assisting in the identification of critical points of the fusion plasmas.

Researchers from Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences and University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) tested their new Thomson scattering diagnostic system in the Keda Torus experiment, a fusion device at the USTC.

Quick Read

Madonna defends 'disturbing' gun video



LOS ANGELES (BBC): Madonna has defended a graphic music video depicting a nightclub massacre, saying people need to understand "this is what happens when people shoot".

The pop superstar's song God Control calls for people to "wake up" about the reality of gun violence in the US.

The scenes in the music video recall the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, where 49 people were killed.

Pulse survivor Patience Carter said she was "truly disturbed" by the video.

The eight-minute video shows actors playing revellers being shot and lying lifeless and covered in blood in a fictional nightclub called The Globe.

"I couldn't even watch after the first 45 secs @Madonna," Carter wrote on Twitter.

"There are so many creative avenues that could've been taken to bring awareness to gun control. The victims of these mass shootings should always be taken into consideration. I applauded the attempt, but I am truly disturbed."

Carly Ray: Fame killed my joy for music



LOS ANGELES (GN): Carly Ray Jepsen says becoming famous made her lose her love of music.

The 33-year-old singer admitted her life changed hugely thanks to her breakthrough single 'Call Me Maybe' - which was released in September 2011 - and eventually performing on stage felt more of a "responsibility" than something pleasurable. She said: "After 'Call Me Maybe', my life was such a blur.

"It was a new thing to be recognised everywhere and I started to feel the pressures of the way my life had changed.

"You have to be careful, it's easy to lose yourself in fame and be swallowed up by people's perception of you. I was losing my happiness.

"My idea of joy - singing on stage - started to feel like a great responsibility." Carly decided to take a step back and figure out what mattered, as well as finding her passion again.

She added to Q magazine: "That's why I took so much time making [2015 album] 'Emotion'.

"I wanted to get back to what connected me to music in the first place.

Up, close & personal with Sara Bhatti

FAIZAN JAVED
LAHORE

Sara Bhatti made a phenomenal comeback with her power-packed performance in Dawar Mehmood and Anwar Maqsood's theatre play Naachna Jaane - a sequel to Aangan Terha (the hit TV series from the 1980s).

Her strong stage presence left the viewers in awe and going by the social media reactions it's quite evident to note that the people are impressed by her performance and want to see her more.

Bhatti took on the role played by Bushra Ansari in the original TV play and with her effortless acting made her presence mark.

The question remains how challenging was it for her in stepping into the legendary artist's shoes? She opined, "Learning the language, the mannerism and acting out the age of someone who is so vastly unlike you are challenges for any actor. My character is an Urdu speaking, 40 year old married woman with no children. The character couldn't be more different than me. The age, the family, environment, everything is in stark contrast to mine. Not only did I have to master the Urdu language but the mannerism and expressions of someone coming from her background and age as well," she added. "Bushra Ansari performed the character at my age. She was also young and she was also new at that time. I have always looked up to her. She's an amazing actress and an inspiration."

When asked how she was approached for the role, the artiste revealed that Yasir Hussain in a gathering at a mutual friend told her a little about the character and said that she would be the perfect fit for the character.



"I don't know if I was perfect for it then, but after immense hard work it's heartening to see people loving my performance."

The artiste expressed her satisfaction on her brilliant on screen chemistry with Hussain. "I learnt a lot from him both on and off stage."

Bhatti said that she is humbled to see praises all across the board and disclosed that her fans should be rest assured that they will be soon seeing her in TV dramas and other mediums of performing arts.

"As an artist, any medium that helps me express myself is a blessing. Theatre, screen acting, painting, writing, directing, you will be seeing me doing all these things in the future. Most of them I'm already doing," she said.

The rising performer called theater, 'an actor's medium', as she believes that with no cuts and retakes it's a place where the artiste finds a space to show what he/she is capable of. "It's absolutely mind blowing. Once you're on stage you're in your own," she added.

Sara said that with Pakistani cinema finally producing quality content, she is now open to the idea of doing films given she is offered quality script and a substantive role.

"Film is how I started my acting. The camera has and will always be my first love. It's also where I am most comfortable. I am happy when my expression is felt and understood by the viewer," she said.

Bhatti has studied screen acting at the Pinewood Studios, London, and has also worked in an Indian film. She was recently seen in a telefilm and a drama play. Reports suggest that she is currently in talks for a film.

The actress said that she will soon launch her online channel in coming days. "It's an exciting project. My fans will get to see a number of aspects of my life in a very fun and lively production."

Frieiha Altaf to be show director for LSA

OUR STAFF REPORTER
KARACHI

Ace choreographer and woman of many talents, Frieiha Altaf who has long been associated with the LUX Style Awards (LSA) is the official show director for LSA 2019 that is scheduled to take place in July next month.

After a successful run last year where she orchestrated two grand segments at the show, she is brewing another star-studded yet glamorous flow of activities and elaborate performances full of flair and star power for this year's show.

Frieiha's diverse talents and her immense experience within the Entertainment and Fashion Industry is what makes her the ideal match for putting together the most coveted awards night Pakistan witnesses. Speaking on this occasion, she said,



"It gives me great pleasure to return to LSA as Show Director. LSA is the single, most prestigious, non-aligned platform that honors excellence from the Fashion, Film, Music and Television and I'm glad I'm a part of the 18th LUX Style Awards. Having been associated with the

industries." Over the years Frieiha has introduced new talent and honored legends, merged music and fashion and dance and drama to re-create some of the most iconic moments for Pakistan's entertainment industry. From Shabnam to Saba Qamar, from Nadeem Baig sahib to Humayun Saeed, from Mehnaz and Nahid Akhtar to Aima Baig, from Niloufer Shahid to Sana Safinaz every big star and major player has had a role to showcase the best of Pakistan. For the 18th edition, Frieiha Altaf's Catwalk is working with the many prominent personalities who plan tirelessly to bring forth a seamless show to the audience. Time and again, she instinctively and intuitively adds unique elements to the many signature performances at the LUX Style Awards and we wait in anticipation to find out!

“It gives me great pleasure to return to LSA as Show Director, says Frieiha

Cardi B wants to leave own 'mark in fashion'

GN
LOS ANGELES

Cardi B wants to leave her own "mark in fashion".

The 26-year-old rapper is known for her bold and vivacious red carpet looks and her long-time stylist, Kollin Carter - who worked with her before she shot to fame in 2017 with hit single 'Bodak Yellow' - has revealed her client has "no ego" and will work with her

favourite go-to designer's alongside up-and-coming brand's to showcase their work.

He said: "I feel like it's one of those things where we really understand one another. And sometimes I'll push a bit or she'll push when it comes to ideas, like, she'll be down to do something but maybe a little hesitant or, like, she'll bring something to me, like, I wanna do this and

it's like, 'Uh, I don't know, I don't think we should do that.' And then you know, vice versa. It's one of those things where it's really like a conversation with no ego and it's an honest conversation."

The stylist added how the 'Please Me' hitmaker turns to "history" for inspiration.

He continued: "We pull from a lot of things we've been inspired by in the past, the history of fashion.



Salma Hayek eyed for Marvels The Eternals

CM
LOS ANGELES

Salma Hayek is set to star in 'The Eternals'.

The 'From Dusk till Dawn' star is reportedly preparing to enter the Marvel Cinematic Universe with a role in the upcoming mysterious project, which is set to enter production at the end of summer. According to The Wrap, the 52-year-old actress is still in negotiations for an unknown role in the blockbuster and has yet to sign a deal to star alongside the likes of Keanu Reeves and Richard Madden.

Although Reeves' role also remains unknown, it was previously claimed the 'Rocketman' star was in talks to play Ikaris, who is fuelled by cosmic energy in the movie, with one plot line of the film involving a love story between his character and Sersi, who relishes moving amongst humans.

Ma Dong-Seok was also reported to have joined the cast, along with Angelina Jolie.

The 48-year-old actor - who is best known to audiences for 2013 zombie thriller 'Train To Busan' - and 44-year-old Jolie's parts are too being kept under wraps for the time being.



اگر آپ سوشل میڈیا پاکستان گروپ میں ایڈ ہونا

اور مندرجہ ذیل مواد حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں

- ۱۔ تمام پاکستانی اخبارات
- ۲۔ نوکریوں کی اشتہارات
- ۳۔ ہر گھنٹے کی خبریں
- ۴۔ تعلیمی اور معلوماتی کتابیں
- ۵۔ انگلش اور سنڈے میگزین
- ۶۔ کرکٹ اپڈیٹس
- ۷۔ پاکستانی ٹی وی شوز،
- ۸۔ پاکستانی ٹی وی ڈرامے
- ۹۔ پاکستانی نیوز چینلز ٹاک شوز
- ۱۰۔ پاکستانی گیم شوز،
- ۱۱۔ انڈین ٹی وی ڈرامے
- ۱۲۔ تعلیمی نوٹس اور گیس پیپرز
- ۱۳۔ پاکستانی فلمیں
- ۱۴۔ انڈین فلمیں
- ۱۵۔ انگلش فلمیں

۱۶۔ ترکی کے تمام سیریز ڈراموں کی روزانہ 05 اقساط اپلوڈ کی جائیں گی۔

ابھی گروپ میں ایڈ ہونے کی ماہانہ فیس صرف 50 روپے جمع کروا کر ایڈ ہو سکتے ہیں۔
جو ہر مہینے جمع کرنا لازم ہوگی۔

فیس جمع کروانے کا طریقہ

کسی بھی جازموبی کیش یا ایزی پیسہ شاپ پر جا کر مندرجہ ذیل نمبرز پر فیس ادا کریں
جازکیش کے ذریعے فیس اس نمبر پر ادا کریں
0300-5373305
ایزی پیسہ کے ذریعے فیس اس نمبر پر ادا کریں
0345-6738217

نوٹ: جازکیش اور ایزی پیسہ کے علاوہ ایزی لوڈ بھیجنے والا میمبر گروپ میں ایڈ نہیں کیا جائے گا

نوٹ

- ۱۔ نقالوں سے ہوشیار رہیں اوپر دیئے گئے نمبرز کے علاوہ کسی دوسرے نمبر پر فیس ادا نہ کریں
- ۲۔ اگر کوئی میمبر سوشل میڈیا پاکستان کے نام پر گروپ بنا کر فیس لے رہا ہے ایسے کسی فرد سے سوشل میڈیا پاکستان کا کوئی تعلق نہیں۔
- ۳۔ ایسا میمبر گروپ سے بنا کسی وارننگ کے ریموو کر دیا جائے گا
- ۴۔ آئیے واٹس ایپ کے سب سے بڑے گروپ کا حصہ بنیں

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